1945

# LYNCHINGS PREVENTED

| DATE | STATE & PLACE | NUMBER OF PERSONS | | METHOD OF PREVENTION | | REMARKS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | White | Negro | Persons Removed | Officers Augmented | |
| May 26,1945 | Alabama<br>Reese | | Fatally injuring a white man while drunk<br>1 | Persons Removed<br>1 | | |
| July 7,1945 | Georgia<br>Blakely | | Criminal Assault<br>1 | Persons removed<br>1 | | |

# 'Punish Lynchers,' Fla. CIO Urges

Daily Worker N.Y., N.Y.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Oct. 21.—The Florida State CIO yesterday demanded that the authorities responsible for permitting the lynching of Jesse Payne be brought to justice immediately. The state's "easy dismissal" of the case is both "outrageous and disgraceful," the CIO said.

Also demanded was a sweeping investigation that will bring "results." The CIO denounced the State's "sham and mockery" in issuing "empty, sanctimonious statements" to the effect that the lynching is a "regrettable" incident.

"No cover-up, no 'calling for investigations' that bring no results for this despicable fascist-like lynching, can serve as a satisfactory answer to the people of Florida," the CIO told Gov. Millard F. Caldwell. 10-22-45

"We urge you, further, to remove Sheriff Davis immediately from his post and indict him for criminal negligence, and to call upon the Federal Bureau of Investigation to enter the State of Florida to bring to justice—and help end the perpetuation of—the scandalous Hitlerite lynching that have cropped up too often in our great state."

The CIO demand, signed by Charles N. Smollkoff, director of the Council, and Leo Regan, president, also scored the State Attorney General and the Governor's office for its whitewash of the Madison Sheriff. "It is utterly incredible to us how innocent this man is presented [illegible]

lynchers here last Wednesday night.

The murdered youth, Jesse James Payne, was taken from the unguarded Madison jail as several prisoners slept. His body, weighted with shotgun slugs, was found the next morning on a roadside approximately seven miles from here.

Payne, held here on charges of assault with intent to rape in Monticello, was wounded when captured by a posse near there on July 4, two weeks after he had been accused of molesting the daughter of his farmer-employer. He was then taken to the Raiford State prison by a police guard for safe keeping. 10-20-45

Indicted here last week, he was brought from Raiford the following day and locked in the Madison County jail from where he was removed and lynched. Deputy Sheriff A. H. Wade said he brought Payne here from Raiford by a circuitous route because he "was afraid something like this would happen."

Gov. Caldwell's probe is expected to go into the question as to why the jail was unguarded when a Negro prisoner was being held on a rape charge.

In an interview on Friday, Sheriff Lonnie Davis, near tears, stated that he knew he was "on the spot," since he had the only authorized keys to the jail and the person or persons who came for Payne entered with a key. In addition, the white girl that Payne was accused of raping, is the daughter of the sheriff's sister.

State's Attorney A. A. Black of the third Florida judicial district, who arrived here Friday to conduct the governor's investigation, stated that he will request a special grand jury for the probe.

The Payne incident was the first Florida lynching since June 16, 1943, according to Tuskegee Institute records.

In the nation's capital, it was indicated that a great deal of pressure will be applied to apprehend the members of the lynching party. Expected to lead in denouncing the latest episode of Dixie baseness and press harder for anti-lynching legislation were Reps. Marcantonio and Powell (N. Y.), and Dawson (Ill.), Sens. Mead and Wagner (N. Y.), and President Truman.

## Florida Lynching Protest To Truman

Chicago Defender

NEW YORK — The lynching of James Payne in Madison, Fla., brought a storm of protest from irate Negro citizens throughout the country this week. 10-20-45

In a strongly worded telegram, Councilman Benjamin J. Davis of New York in behalf of the community of Harlem asked President Harry S. Truman to secure an immediate investigation by the Department of Justice.

"The lynching of James Payne, Negro citizen in Madison, Fla., is as hideous as any crime ever perpetrated by the Nazi-Japanese Fascists," Davis said.

"It flouts the statement you issued against the un-American ban upon Hazel Scott. Negro Americans in Harlem and throughout the nation together with labor and white progressives are outraged by this Fascist disgrace.

## Probe Begun In Fla. Lynching Of 20-Year-Old

Chicago, Ill.

### Latest Outrage Spurs Demand For U.S. Jurisdiction

10-20-45

MADISON, Fla.—Florida's governor, Millard Caldwell, this week initiated a thorough investigation of the brutal shotgun murder of a 20-year-old Negro by mysterious

## Mob Takes The Old Man From Jail Cell

Kansas City, Missouri

### 20-Year-Old Prisoner Left Unguarded

10-19-45

MADISON, Fla. — (ANP)—An investigation into the lynching of Jesse James Payne, 20, Wednesday night will be launched, according to an announcement made by Gov. Caldwell, Thursday.

Payne, who was locked in an unguarded jail here on charges of assault with intent to rape a five-year-old white girl in Monticello was removed from the jail sometime between Wednesday night and early Thursday morning. His body riddled with shotgun slugs, was found Thursday morning on a roadside seven miles from here.

He had been wounded when captured by a posse near Monticello on July 4, two weeks after he had been accused of molesting the daughter of his farmer employer, and was taken to the Raiford State prison by a police guard for safe keeping.

Payne was indicted here last week and brought from Raiford the following day. He was locked in the Madison county jail with several prisoners when he was removed and lynched. Deputy Sheriff A. H. Wade said he brought Payne here from Raiford by a circuitous route because he "was afraid something like this would happen". 10-19-45

Sheriff Lonnie Davis denied knowing anything about the lynching beyond the fact that Payne had been taken out and shot. Gov. Caldwell's probe is expected to go into the question as to why the jail was unguarded when a Negro prisoner was being held on a rape charge.

## Negro Youth Demand [illegible] Lynching Probe

By MARY SOUTHARD

BIRMINGHAM, Oct. 21.—In a memorandum addressed to "All lovers of freedom and justice," the Southern Negro Youth Congress called for immediate investigation of the lynching of Jesse James Payne, who was taken from jail and shot to death on Oct. 11 near Madison, Fla. 10-22-45

Citing facts revealed in an Associated Press dispatch dated Oct. 12, the memorandum states: [illegible]

"The story which refers to Payne as a 'youthful Negro' stated that he was arrested on July 4, ten days after an alleged attack on a white child of five. He had pleaded innocent to the charges. At the time of his arrest, Jess James Payne was attacked and wounded by a posse. Subsequently he was removed to the state prison. On the day of the lynching, the prisoner was returned to the county jail at Madison. According to the statement of the sheriff, Lonnie Davis, the prison was located on a lot adjacent to his (Davis') house and was left unguarded at night. . . . Jesse James Payne's body was found on the highway 10 miles away from the jail. The coroner's jury which met on Saturday October 13 reached the conclusion that Jesse James Payne met his death at the hands of persons unknown."

Northwest Florida, scene of the lynching, is "one of the most benighted sections of our country," the statement continues. "In 1933 the lynching and mutilation of Claude Neal took place in this area at Mariana. A year ago three Negro youths were railroaded to the electric chair in this region after a trial at Gainesville which was a mockery of justice."

**SIGNAL FOR KKK**

"If the lynchers of Jesse James Payne are allowed to go unpunished, 'the signal will have been given to lynch-minded fascists throughout the South and the nation,' the memorandum concludes. 'The Ku Klux Klan groups which are organizing will know that they can launch their attacks against the lives of Negroes without fear of prosecution. The 'white supremacists' who have threatened to 'keep the Negro veteran in his place' will feel encouraged to provoke assaults against our ex-servicemen. . .'

The memorandum calls on all fair-minded persons to send wires and letters to Gov. Millard Caldwell and Attorney General Tom Watson at State Capitol, Tallahassee, Fla., demanding apprehension and prosecution of the lynchers, the publication of facts in the case, and that the State of Florida provide adequate imdemnity for the family of Jesse James Payne.

**THE FLORIDA LYNCHING**

To the Editor of The News: Ala.

On Oct. 12, the wires of The Associated Press carried the story of the brutal lynching of Jesse James Payne in Madison County, Florida. Payne had pleaded innocent to charge of attack and attempted rape and was being held for trial. 10-23-45

According to Tuskegee reports this lynching was the first for 1945. Speedy action on the part of those charged with protection of the citizens of the United States can make it the last. The lynchers of Jesse James Payne can be exposed and convicted. They are undoubtedly known to many people in Northwest Florida. If the criminals are not identified and brought to summary justice in this case, the signal will have been given to lynch-minded Fascists throughout the nation. The Ku Klux Klan groups which are organizing will know that they can launch their attacks against the lives of Negroes without fear of prosecution. Birmingham News

The fight for justice in this case is the fight for our future, for the democracy which millions of fighting men sacrificed and died to preserve. Renewed effort on the part of Congress to pass anti-lynching legislation will do much to reassure the American people that our soldiers fought for democracy in America as well as in Japan and the Balkans.

LOUIS E. BURHAM.

# Lynch Justice in Florida

THE killing of Jesse Payne at Madison, Fla., was not "just another lynching" for the "usual crime." Although the usual cry of "rape" was raised against this young Negro farm laborer, there was obviously something bigger involved. His murder was a blow at the developing unity between Negro and white workers.

Payne was removed from the lynch-proof state prison and taken over the roads to an unguarded one-story shack "jail" at Madison and left there unguarded.

State officials from Gov. Caldwell down to Sheriff Davis, continue a cynical it's-none-of-your-business attitude toward citizens who demand punishment of the lynchers.

It is frequently asserted that the difference between Hitler's wholesale lynchings in Europe and such fascist manifestations as that at Madison is that Hitler's crimes were engineered and sanctioned by the state.

But we know of no way whereby a state may disassociate itself from such fascist acts except by condemning them openly and seeking out the guilty. Florida has done neither. Nor has the United States government.

And the anti-lynching bill, HR 1698, is still bottled up in the House Judiciary Committee by chairman Hatton Sumners of Texas.

one was empanelled was still in formal session.

## Further Investigation Needed

*The Atlanta Daily World, Atlanta, Georgia*

Further investigation into the shameful lynching in Madison, Florida of a Negro is needed it seems.

Jesse James Payne, age 30, was being held in jail awaiting trial for an alleged criminal attack on a five-year old white girl who is said to have been infected with veneral disease after the alleged affair. There is no more revolting crime for which a man could be charged, but in America no crime is so bad that the accused is not entitled to a fair trial.

A mob is said to have entered the county jail by key between 10 P.M. October 10 and dawn October 11, took Payne out and executed him without benefit of trial. Sheriff Lonnie Davis, uncle of the alleged victim, claims that he had the only key to the jail and is in the dark as to where the mobsters secured the key they used.

State Attorney A. K. Black's investigation of the lynching has exonerated Sheriff Davis of any part in the plot of a small group to apply its own type of punishment. None of the mobsters were indentified, officials say.

Even though the first investigation reportedly failed to find the identities of the mob and held Sheriff Davis blameless, the inquiry should hardly be dropped that short of results.

Finding the guilty lynchers may be difficult, but an honest investigation seeking their identity should not be closed so early. Responsibility for protecting a prisoner either in jail or in the hands of the law is clear in this case, as in every case of its kind. Were sheriffs subject to answer in cases where prisoners are removed from jail or taken from them, there would be more likelihood of finding the instigators of such unAmerican punishment.

Regardless of the evidence, punishment has seldom if ever been lacking, lenient or slow where a Negro was charged with such a crime. So it could have hardly been the fear that with good evidence that the lynch victim would have escaped adequate punishment if brought to trial. Lynching does something that fair trail fail to do. Lynching puts a few men above the law and allows them to execute victims without evidence, defense or trial.

Lynching law is coward law. It is lawlessness in the most unAmerican way. It is a crime against civilization. Shame on Florida.

The investigation should be renewed and continued until the guilty are brought to bar, a thing which they denied their mob victim.

# Refuses To Oust Lynch Sheriff

*Chicago Defender*

*Chicago, Illinois*

## Governor Calls Officer 'Stupid'

By JOHN LeFLORE
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Efforts of two Madison county grand juries to absolve Sheriff Lonnie T. Davis of any connection with the recent lynching of Jesse James Payne, a Negro youth, backfired last week when Florida's Gov. Millard Caldwell declared that the "stupidity" of the officer was responsible for the state's 1945 disgrace.

The governor asserted that "stupidity" had been proved against Davis but that he would not be removed from office.

The state's chief executive admitted that his investigators had uncovered evidence in the circumstances leading up to the lynching of Payne to prove the sheriff's unfitness for office but that he was the "choice of the people of Madison County. Stupidity and ineptitude are not sufficient grounds for the removal of an elected official by he governor."

**Issues Warning**

He warned, however, that in the future, "particularly in cases of this kind, I expect the highest degree of care to be exercised."

The governor said the state's investigation of the lynching indicated that Sheriff Davis "did not participate in the crime and did not intentionally make its commission possible."

Payne, accused of molesting a five-year-old white child, said to be a niece of the sheriff, was taken to Madison on October 9 to stand trial in the case from the state prison at Raiford, where he had been placed for safe-keeping. He had pleaded not guilty and was scheduled to be tried on October 16.

**Lynch Threats Ignored**

Despite previous lynch threats against the life of the Negro youth, he was put in an unguarded Madison county jail. On July 4 a posse-mob shot the terror-stricken boy at Monticello. He was rescued by state officers and placed under arrest. Further threats were made to lynch him after he had been taken in custody.

Late in the night of October 10 or early in the morning of October 11, Payne was "quietly" removed from the jail by an "orderly" mob and shot to death. After dawn his body was found seven miles away near a highway.

Sheriff Davis was the only person who had keys to the jail and the cells. The jail, which is located on a lot adjoining the sheriff's home, is surrounded by a high wire fence. There are people in Madison who whisper that the officer knows who the members of the mob were, was in conspiracy with them, and was standing at a window in a nightshirt at his home watching the mob when it entered the jail and removed the hapless Negro youth

# Father of 'Victim' on Fla. Lynch Jury

*Special to the Daily Worker*

*Daily Worker*

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Oct. 29.—The father of Jesse Payne's alleged victim was on the jury which indicted Payne before he was lynched. This same grand jury member was also the brother of Sheriff Lonnie T. Davis, accused of permitting the lynching.

These facts were revealed this week when Gov. Millard Caldwell, on the recommendation of Attorney General Tom Watson, requested a new grand jury to investigate the lynching of the young Negro boy.

**FEAR WHITEWASHING**

Meanwhile, in Birmingham, Ala., the Southern Negro Youth Congress revealed that Watson, in a letter to the SNYC, seemed to be whitewashing the case. Louis E. Burnham, SNYC organizational secretary, charged Watson with trying to explain away the case by stating that Payne was of legal age and that he was arrested after fleeing officers of the law.

Payne was lynched after charges that he had assaulted the sheriff's five-year-old niece. He was taken from an unguarded jail the night after he pleaded innocent, and shot to death on a rural road.

Gov. Caldwell had at first asked that a grand jury inquiry be made as to whether the sheriff was negligent in guarding the jail. Attorney General Watson recommended instead a new grand jury.

The SNYC has offered $500 for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the lynchers. This amount is in addition to a similar reward offered by the International Labor Defense.

## Grand Jury Investigating Negro Death Discharged

*The Birmingham News, Birmingham, Alabama*

MADISON, Fla., Oct. 26—(AP)—Circuit Judge R. H. Rowe has discharged the Grand Jury that had investigated the death of a Negro who was taken from the County Jail here Oct. 11 and shot.

At Tallahassee Gov. Millard Caldwell previously suggested a new Grand Jury be summoned to continue the investigation of the Negro's death. The discharged jury was the same that had returned an indictment charging the Negro with attempted rape of a 5-year-old white girl.

However, Judge Rowe said he would not call another jury until after the present term of Circuit Court had been adjourned this week. He stated he doubted the legality of calling a new jury while the term of court for which the old

7201

## Florida Negro Held In Attack Case Slain

The Montgomery, Alabama Advertiser

MADISON, FLA., Oct. 11—(AP)—Sheriff Lonnie Davis said today that Jesse James Payne, negro under indictment for assault with intent to rape a five-year-old white girl, had been taken from an unguarded Madison County jail here last night and shot to death. 10-12-45

At Tallahassee, Governor Millard Caldwell said he had just received a "sketchy report" on the affair and would start an immediate investigation.

Payne had been held for safekeeping at the state prison in Raiford since his arrest July 4 at Monticello, where state highway patrolmen had guarded him from a crowd that gathered after he had been shot during a posse chase.

## Negro Accused In Rape Case Shot to Death

Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky.

**Defendant Was Taken From Florida Jail**

Madison, Fla., Oct. 11 (AP)—Sheriff Lonnie Davis said today that Jesse James Payne, Negro under indictment for assault with intent to rape a 5-year-old white girl, had been taken from an unguarded Madison County jail here last night and shot to death.

At Tallahassee, Governr Millard Caldwell said he had just received a "sketchy report" on the affair and would start an immediate investigation.

Payne had been held for safekeeping at the State Prison in Raiford since his arrest July 4 at Monticello, where State highway patrolmen had guarded him from a crowd that gathered after he had been shot during a posse chase. 10-12-45

**Pleaded Not Guilty.**

Sheriff Davis said the Negro was brought back from Raiford Tuesday to be arraigned. He pleaded not guilty to the charge.

"All I know is that he was taken out of the jail sometime between dark and daylight and was found dead seven miles south of here on the highway," the sheriff said.

He said the jail was not guarded during the night. "I never have any guard at the jail," he commented.

The Governor said his report showed the Negro was charged with assault with intent to commit rape, attempt to commit rape and lascivious conduct with a child below the age of 14.

**Preliminary Charge Made.**

Attorney General Tom Watson, who had made a personal investigation of the case when Payne was arrested in Madison, placed a preliminary charge of lascivious conduct against him at that time.

The attorney general said then the alleged attack on the young white girl had occurred at Greenville about 10 days before Payne was captured and that a doctor's examination, indicated the child had become infected with a venereal disease.

He said "if the State Highway Patrol had not taken charge and prompt action, mob demonstrations might have occurred" at Monticello.

## Youthful Negro, Held For Criminal Attack, Lynched In Florida

The Birmingham News Birmingham, Alabama 10-13-45

MADISON, Fla., Oct. 12—(AP)—A young Negro under indictment for assault with intent to criminally attack a 5-year-old white girl, was taken from the county jail either late Wednesday night or early Thursday morning and shot to death, Sheriff Lonnie Davis said yesterday.

Sheriff Davis reported the Negro, Jesse James Payne, was returned to the jail here from the state prison Tuesday for arraignment. He had pleaded innocent to the charges.

Gov. Millard Caldwell, at Tallahassee, said he had received only a "sketchy report" on the affair but would start an investigation immediately.

Arrested July 4 at Monticello, the Negro was later removed to the state prison after state highway patrolmen had guarded him from a crowd. The prisoner was wounded at that time during a posse chase.

In reporting the death of the Negro Sheriff Davis said the county jail here was not guarded.

A. K. Black, Lake City, state attorney for the Madison judicial circuit, said yesterday more than 12 hours elapsed after the Negro's body was found on a highway seven miles away from here before he was notified. He plans an immediate investigation also.

The state attorney said he was informed there were four or five prisoners in the jail at the time. He added as far as he knew it was customary to leave the jail without a guard at night. The jail is on a lot adjacent to the home of the sheriff.

Black stated he was present when the Negro was arraigned before Circuit Judge R. H. Rowe Wednesday. "There was no demonstration of any kind that I could see," he added. Payne's case had been scheduled for trial next Tuesday.

A coroner's jury was empanelled yesterday by County Judge J. R. Kelley. After viewing the Negro's body the jury adjourned the inquest until 10 a.m. Saturday.

Atty. Gen. J. Tom Watson, who made a personal investigation of the Negro's case, stated the alleged attack on the young white child occurred at Greenville about 10 days before Payne's capture last July 4. A doctor's examination indicated the child became infected with a venereal disease, he stated.

## Florida Town Starts Probe Of Lynching

Richmond (Va.) Times Dispatch 10-13-45

MADISON, FLA., Oct. 12—(UP)—Authorities in this small North Florida town tonight were investigating the lynching of a Negro who was charged with molesting the county sheriff's niece.

An unidentified mob removed the 30-year-old Negro, Jesse Payne, from the unguarded Madison County jail between 10 P. M. Wednesday and dawn Thursday. His buckshot-riddled body was found beside an unpaved road seven miles from town.

Sheriff Lonnie Davis, who revealed it was his own five-year-old niece whom Payne was accused of "fooling around with," said the lynching party had used a key to get into the one-story jail.

Where they secured the key, Davis said he did not know, as he kept the only ones to the jail and had those with him at the time Payne was removed.

It is customary to leave the building unguarded, but locked, unless a "dangerous" criminal is being held.

A coroner's jury which was convened shortly after the killing was discovered is expected to return a verdict Saturday. State Attorney A. K. Black also arrived in town for his own investigation and said he would ask for a special grand jury to hear the findings. 10-13-45

**No Witnesses Found**

The crowd that did the job, however, apparently had made good its escape. No witnesses could be found.

Two other Negroes who shared a cell with Payne said they were undisturbed by the night's happenings. They were asleep in two bunks above his. Three white prisoners said they had heard a noise about 2 A. M. Thursday, but did not know what caused it.

Sheriff Davis appeared completely unnerved by the incident, acknowledging that it had put him in a peculiar predicament.

"I realize this has put me on the spot," he said as he disclosed that it was the child of his wife's sister involved in the case.

"But if I had wanted to kill him," he insisted, "I could have shot him in jail. I wouldn't have had to engineer a deal like this."

Davis said his niece had contracted a venerial disease from the Negro, but had been cured by the use of new drugs.

This was the first lynching of 1945 and the first in Florida since June 16, 1943, according to Tuskegee (Ala.) Institute, which keeps nation-wide lynching rec-

## Accused Of Attack On 5-Yr.-Old Girl

(Atlanta (Ga.) Daily World

MADISON, Fla. — (S N S) — Thirty-year-old Jesse James Payne was lynched by a mob which used a key to enter the county jail early Thursday morning, Sheriff Lonnie Davis revealed Friday.

Sheriff Davis admitted that he was "on the spot" because he had the only keys to the jail and that the five-year-old girl whom Payne was charged with molesting was his niece.

Paynes was shot to death after being removed from the jail.

The sheriff was pictured as almost weeping when interviewed and stating that he had the only key to the jail "so far as I know" and that "I realize that I am on the spot." He added, "But if I had wanted to kill the Negro, I could have shot him in jail. I wouldn't have had to engineer a deal like this." 10-13-45

**"KNOWS NOTHING"**

The official said he knew nothing of the identities of the men who entered the jail and shot Payne.

Meanwhile State Attorney A. K. Black launched an investigation into the lynching.

The child, a daughter of Sheriff Davis, allegedly had contracted a venereal disease from Payne. The disease reportedly had been cured by use of new drugs.

The seizure and shooting of Payne took place between 10 p. m. Wednesday night and dawn Thursday. Sheriff Davis claimed to have been at home.

According to records of Tuskegee Institute, the lynching was the first of 1945.

A conflict in reports as to the place of the lynching led the World Friday to wire W. P. Evans, Chief of Police, Madison, Ga., concerning details or denials. Evans replied: "Only record we have of lynching in Morgan County was in 1888."

Georgia's 1945 record was kept clear.

## Davis Wires Truman Act in Fla. Lynching

Daily Worker

The lynching of the Negro, James Payne in Madison, Fla., reported in Thursday's afternoon press has aroused the community of Harlem. 10-15-45

In a strongly worded telegram, Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., asked President Harry S. Truman to secure an immediate investigation by the Department of Justice.

"The lynching of James Payne, Negro citizen in Madison, Florida, is as hideous as any crimes ever perpetrated by the Nazi-Japanese fascists. It flouts the statement you issued against the un-American ban upon Hazel Scott," Davis wired the President. "Negro Americans in Harlem and throughout the nation together with labor and white progressives are outraged at this fascist disgrace." New York Ny.

Councilman Davis urged the President to "denounce Bilbo and Rankin whose speeches and slurs in Congress against American citizens are directly inciting lynch terror, anti-Semitism and Ku Klux gangsterism in our country."

## Lynching Probe In Florida Hits Stone Wall

Atlanta Constitution

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Oct. 15. (AP)—Executive Secretary John T. Wigginton said State Attorney A. K. Black reported to Gov. Caldwell today that he was "up against a stone wall" in trying to learn who took a negro from the Madison county jail and shot him to death Wednesday night.

Wigginton said the Governor has received no report from a special investigator he sent to Madison county on the case, but he was expecting it within the next few days. 10-16-45

A coroner's jury returned a verdict Saturday that the negro, Jesse James Payne, was slain by unknown persons.

Payne was indicted last week by the Madison county grand jury on charges of assault with intent to commit assault, attempted assault and lascivious conduct with a five-year-old white girl. He had entered a plea of innocence and his trial had been set for tomorrow.

# That 'Innocent' Florida Sheriff

Pittsburgh Courier Pittsburgh Pennsylvania

Jesse James Payne, a 30-year-old colored citizen of Madison, Fla., was taken from the local county jail last week and shot to death by a mob.

The mob apparently possessed a key to the jail because they were able to get their victim out of the place without breaking down any doors.

Although Sheriff Lonnie Davis admits that he possessed the only key to the jail, he nevertheless pleads innocent to the charge of having aided the mob to murder his prisoner.

Evidently the lynch-crazy Southern minority is not willing to give up this savage pastime, so there is no alternative than to work again for the passage of a Federal anti-lynching law which will enable the long arm of Washington to reach into these barbarous localities and punish all concerned every time a lynching occurs.

10-20-45

If local communities will not protect their citizens' lives, then the Federal Government must do so.

The South says that it will and can stop lynching, but fails to do so.

Where it succeeds in doing so, it has nothing to fear from an anti-lynching law, no matter how drastic the penalties.

It is only those localities and individuals who persist in taking the law into their hands that have any reason to fear an anti-lynching law enforced by the Federal Government.

Let us get to work again to get such a law passed as soon as possible, so that there will be no more such disgraceful occurrences in Florida or anywhere else under the Stars and Stripes.

# Lynching Puts Sheriff on Spot

P.M. N.Y. 10-14-45

By United Press

MADISON, Fla., Oct. 13.—Sheriff Lonnie Davis "guesses" he is "on the spot" as regards the lynching of Jesse James Payne, 30, a Negro farm hand, but he wanted it clearly understood he had had nothing to do with it.

Payne had been jailed on a charge of molesting the sheriff's five-year-old niece. He was taken out of the local jail Wednesday night and shot by persons who possessed the key. The sheriff said that so far as he knew, he had the only key.

State Attorney A. K. Black, investigating the case, said he would request a special session of the County Grand Jury.

There are those here who say that the law enforcement officer was standing at a window of his home in a long nightshirt, watching the pseudo-civilized beings who composed the "orderly" mob go about the task of removing Payne from the jail to waiting automobiles.

During Thursday morning after dawn, Payne's body was found on a highway seven miles from town —"orderly" riddled with buckshot.

The young Negro was arrested on July 4 at Monticello on a charge of attempting to rape a 5-year-old white child, Sheriff Davis' niece.

**Sheriff "Astonished"**

Sheriff Davis professed "astonishment" that the mob would enter the "unguarded" jail to seize a Negro prisoner. Said he: "All I know is that he was taken out of the jail sometime between dark and daylight and was found dead seven miles south of here on the highway. I never had had a guard at the jail."

State's Attorney A. K. Black of the Madison judicial circuit, who resides at Lake, said that more than 12 hours elapsed after Payne's body was found before he was notified. He has promised an immediate "investigation."

He stated that he was informed that there were four or five other prisoners in the jail at the time. However, none seemed to know anything about Payne having been removed from his cell by the mob.

Black also said that he was present when the youth was arraigned before Circuit Judge R. H. Rowe last Wednesday and that "there was no demonstration of any kind that I could see."

Gov. Millard Caldwell, at Tallahassee, explained that he had received only an incomplete report of the happening but would also start an immediate "investigation."

10-20-45

**Investigation Lags**

A report issued by Atty. Gen. Tom Watson that his department had made a personal investigation of Payne's case, which included an alleged examination of the child by a physician and an indication that she had become infected with a venereal disease, could not be corroborated by Asst. Atty. Gen. Bollin Stanley.

Stanley admitted that the office of the Attorney General had not been "very active" in the case. He stated that in a conversation with Reeves Bowen, assistant in charge of the criminal department, on last Friday morning about the case, the latter said that little or nothing had been done toward a thorough investigation of the case.

The assistant attorney general also said that he could not officially state that the child had become infected with a venereal disease as he had no proof that such had happened.

Watson was out of town at the time the Defender questioned Asst. Atty. Gen. Stanley and could not be reached for a statement.

A coroner's jury was empaneled by County Judge J. R. Kelley held an inquest Saturday and returned a verdict that Payne came to his death at the hands of parties "unknown."

## Lynching in October

News Week, N.Y. 10-22-45

For the nation the record bore promise that 1945 would be a perfect year. Even brighter were the prospects for Florida; not since June 16, 1943, had a lynching occurred in the state. Last week nation and state suffered a relapse—30-year-old Jesse James Payne, Negro farmhand, became the victim of the first lynching of 1945.

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# Mob Lynches Fla. Prisoner

The Afro-American Baltimore Md.

## Sheriff Denies Taking Part, Had Keys

10-30-45

## JAIL UNGUARDED

## Governor Promises to Make Investigation

MADISON, Fla. — Jesse James Payne, 30-year-old farm hand, was taken from an unguarded county jail by a small lynch mob last week and shot to death, Sheriff Lonnie Davis reported on Friday.

An immediate investigation was promised by Gov. Millard Caldwell at Tallahassee, who said he had received only a "sketchy report" on the affair.

**Sheriff Had Keys**

While admitting that as far as he knew he had the only keys to the jail, the sheriff denied that he had anything to do with the lynching, which occurred either late Wednesday night or early Thursday morning.

Payne, indicted for assault with intent to rape a 5-year-old white girl, whom the sheriff disclosed was his niece, was returned to the jail here from the State prison on Oct. 9 for arraignment.

**Victim Denied Charge**

He had pleaded innocent to the charges and was scheduled to go on trial on Oct. 16.

His body, riddled with shotgun slugs, was found Thursday morning on a roadside seven miles from here.

10-20-45

Payne had been wounded when captured by a posse near Monticello on July 4, two weeks after he had been accused of molesting the daughter of his farmer employer, and was taken to the Raiford State prison by a police guard for safe keeping.

**Jail Locked, Unguarded**

He was indicted here last week and brought from Raiford the following day. He was locked in the Madison County jail with several other prisoners when he was removed and lynched.

Deputy Sheriff A. H. Wade said he brought Payne here from Raiford by a circuitous route because he was afraid "something like this would happen."

10-20-45

Sheriff Davis denied knowing anything about the lynching beyond the fact that Payne had been taken out and shot.

"If I had wanted to kill Payne," Davis said, "I could have shot him in the jail. I wouldn't have to engineer a deal like this."

Concerning the absence of guards, he stated: "I never had had any guards at the jail."

**No Clues on Mob**

A. K. Black of Lake City, State attorney for the Madison judicial circuit, said he also planned an investigation.

Mr. Black said Davis told him he had no clues as to who committed the crime. According to Davis, prisoners in the jail said they were asleep and heard nothing during the night.

The jail is on a lot adjacent to the sheriff's home and is surrounded by a steel wire fence.

**BESTIAL ETIQUETTE IN FLORIDA**

Chicago, Ill. Defender

# Dixie Mob Lynches With Nazi Orderliness

10-20-45

By JOHN LeFLORE

(Defender Staff Correspondent)

MADISON, Fla. — Bloodthirsty American Hitlerites introduced the "orderly" technique here last Wednesday night when they lynched defenseless Jesse Payne.

The mob's victim was taken from the "unguarded" county jail right under Sheriff Lonnie Davis' nose. The jail is on a lot adjacent to the sheriff's home, and is surrounded by a steel wire fence.

Plaindealer Kans.

FLORIDA HAS TOOK the lead in the LYNCHING league. Florida makes the first score since the guns ceased firing in Europe and the Pacific. The Governor has promised to make investigations, but this awful incident will perhaps go down in history as just another case where a group of white men took the law in their hands and committed a crime. In cases of this kind, the lynchers are never known, they can't be identified.

7202

# Lynching Toll In South On Increase As 1945 Nears End

California Eagle 12-20-45

**While Washington is insisting on imposing its brand of democracy on the peoples of China and the Balkans, the lynching toll continued to mount in this country with the uncovering of another lynching, the third in three months.**

News of the latest lynching to be uncovered broke with the arrest of Tom Crews, chief of police of Bradford, Fla., and Lloyd Gibbs, wealthy operator of turpentine camps, for the murder of Sam McFadden. The body of McFadden was found floating near an island in the Swanee River on October 29. Date of his death was fixed as approximately Sept. 21, a little more than a week before the lynching of Jesse Payne in Madison, Fla., on Oct. 1.

The first lynching, discovered just three weeks ago, was that of Moses Green of Ellentown, S. C., 51-year-old farmer whose name was first reported as Singleton. All three victims were Negroes.

Los Angeles,

**Significant is the fact that in all three lynchings officers of the law have been involved, in each case sheriffs or deputy sheriffs.**

The officers of Aiken, South Carolina, have been identified as the killers of Moses Green who was shot to death in Barnwell County on Sept. 8. The men were named by Green's daughter, Mrs. Beatrice G. Singleton, now a resident of Philadelphia. They are John Stephen and Sam Low, both officers of the Ellentown, S. C. police department.

A Madison County, Fla., grand jury recently exonerated Sheriff Lonnie Davis in the lynching of Jesse Payne, who was taken from jail by someone having the sheriff's key, and shot to death.

7203

# Miss. Vet Rejects Old Job, Slain

47a

Baltimore, Md. Sat.

NEW ORLEANS — Because he refused to return to work as a sharecropper for a white farmer, Eugene Bells, 24-year-old veteran, was lynched by a three-man mob in Liberty, Miss., on Aug. 25, 1945, according to a story told the NAACP here recently. 6-29-46

According to Hilton Lea, 27, also of Liberty, he too, was beaten and left to die by the three men who waylaid the truck in which the two were riding with their wives and Lea's two children, who were permitted to run away. 6-29-46

Giving the cause of the lynching, Lea said that Bells, upon his discharge from the Army, decided to work for his father-in-law, Herbert Lea, instead of for Ross McDowell, his former employer.

The latter, it was reported upon meeting Bells later warned him that "you are going to die like your old grandfather," who had been lynched several years before.

Meanwhile, affidavits are being sent to the National NAACP office and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Write N.A.A.C.P. Concerning data on

# Liberty, Mississippi Was Scene Of Vet's Lynching Last August

## Survivor Tells How Victim Was Shot By White Mob; Sheriff Says Slayers Were Freed In Court; Invites Informer Reporter To Liberty To Get More Details

By JOHN E. ROUSSEAU, JR.

NEW ORLEANS, La.—Because he refused to return to work as a sharecropper on the farm owned by Russ McDowell, white, in Liberty, Mississippi, following his honorable discharge from the military service, Eugene Bells, 24-year-old husband and father of two children, was lynched by a mob composed of three white residents of Liberty, Mississippi, on August 25, 1945, it was reported on Tuesday to the New Orleans Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by Hilton Lea, 27, of Liberty Mississippi, who survived a severe beating at the hands of the same mob that killed Bells.

Statements taken by Daniel E. Byrd, executive secretary of the NAACP, and John E. Rousseau, Jr., Informer representative, are being referred to the national office of the NAACP and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Credence was lent the statement by Lea on Tuesday when the newspaper reporter telephoned Sheriff Wiley Smith of Liberty, Mississippi, on Tuesday regarding the slaying. When asked about Bell's death, Sheriff Smith said:

"He was killed in the upper end of the county, last August!"

To the question of who had killed Bells, he answered:

"Yes, I know who done it; they're up here. They were tried in the court of jestice and the court tarned 'em loose."

Question: "What's their names?"

Answer: "Well, I reckon there ain't no need of all that."

Question: "Would you mind telling me their names?"

Answer: "Well, you just come up and get 'em.'

Question: "Do you have anything you wish to say for publication?"

Answer: "No-o-O!"

Lea, who told of being severely beaten by three white men, Oball Nondrey, Earl Moore and "Little Willie" Banns, is a cousin of the Reverend Isaac Simmons who was lynched by a mob that cut his tongue out in Liberty, Mississippi, in 1944.

His story of Bells' lynching was to the effect that Bells had served for three months in the United States Army and was honorably discharged. On returning to Liberty from Camp Shelby, Mississippi, he went to make crops with his father-in-law, Herbert Lea. Shortly thereafter he met Russ McDowell, white, for whom he had formerly worked. He was asked to return and on his refusal, was told by McDowell, "You didn't stay with me and you didn't stay in the Army, which means you are no g d I'm telling you, you will never die with your shoes off, you are going to die like your old grandfather." (Bells' grandfather, it was learned, was killed by a white mob some years ago.)

Declared Lea: "On August 25, Eugene Bells, his wife, Verma Bells, accompanied by me, my wife, Lorine Lea, and two children, Sullivan, Lea, aged nine, and Oliver Lea, aged 12, both brothers of Verma Bells, went to McComb, Mississippi, and on returning about 11:30 p.m. we were followed by a motor vehicle which trailed us with lights off. We were driving a 1941 Chevrolet ¾-ton pickup truck, with Bells and the two children in the back and the two women and I in the front seat.

"About 15 miles from McComb, I had nearly reached my home when I felt something whiz past the window of the truck and I could hear something strike against the cab of my truck. I stopped, thinking a tire had blown out, and Eugene Bells, who was in the rear of the truck, moaned, 'Please do something for me.'

"One of the children jumped over Eugene and said, 'Somebody has shot in the truck and killed Eugene.'

"I didn't believe it at first but I proceeded to get in the body of the truck and lift him up to examine him and see what was wrong. At that time, the vehicle that was following us, stopped and I was approached by three white men whose names are Oball Nondrey, Earl Moore and 'Little Willie' Banns. They threw the gun upon my wife and the children, made them get out of the truck and chased them, whereupon Earl Moore struck me on the head with a gun. I grabbed and held the gun and Earl Moore said, "Shoot him; kill him.'

"For some reason they did not kill me but all of them started beating on me and knocked me out.

"I was told later by some white person, namely, J. P. Wash, that they had believed I was dead when they left me so that there would be no living witness to the act they had committed. They said the women did not know their identity.

"On fleeing, my wife and the other persons looked back, they said, and saw the truck turned around and driven toward the swamp with Eugene in it.

"Eugene was still in the back of the truck with three bullets in his body and still living, persons in the vinicty said, when he was taken into the swamp and shot through the head with a 22-caliber gun and the back of his head was beaten and completely mashed in.

"My wife proceeded to my father's home and informed him of the incident and he immediately contacted Sheriff Wiley Smith who promised to come right up. He arrived the next morning about 8:30. By this time I had reached home. Wiley Smih said, 'I know what you say is true because these white people have explained to me what happened. It's bad but there is nothing I can do for you. If I attempt to arrest them, a mob would form and kill all of your family.'

Oball Nunnery is related to Russ McDowell by marriage, Lea said. Lea also told of spending several weeks in the hospital at Jackson, Mississippi, and being treated by a private physician in Summit, Mississippi, for injuries sustained.

Lea is now residing in New Orleans and says he has no intention of returning to liberty, Mississippi.

## MOB SURVIVOR

HILTON LEA

47d(1)-1945

7204

# Replies To Attempted Lynching Justification

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta Georgia

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.— (SNS) — Louis E. Burnam, Organization Secretray of the Southern Negro Youth Congress replies today to a letter sent the Congress by Atty. General J. Tom Watson of the State of Florida who attempted to explain the recent lynching of Jesse J. Payne in Madison on Oct 10. After stating that the prisoner was of legal age and that he was arrested after fleeing in pursuit conducted by officers of the law, Attorney General Watson called the Youth Congress to task in this way, "It might be well for you and others of like mind to you who approach cases of this kind purely for the purpose of criticizing the ending of the accused person, to give some thought to the beginning of such cases and some publicity to expressing disapproval for the crimes which these beginnings represent."

In his reply to this letter, Mr. Burnham drew Mr. Watson's attention to the fact that the Youth Congress toegther with the other organizations had expressed public disapproval of lawlessness and debauched conduct on many occasosn and in a recent case ,the case of Mrs. Recy Taylor, young woman who was raped by six white boys, one of whom confessed and named the others, had pressed for indictment of the guilty parties. "In spite of the protests of thousands of church workers, both Negro and white, trade union members and others in the State of Alabama, the Grand Jury of Henry County, Alabama refused to indict the boys." 10-26-45

"Continuing his letter, Mr. Burnham contrasted this case with the Payne case in which although the boy had pleaded innocent to the charge, he was never given a chance to defend himself before a jury of his peers. "Our organization stands for equal justice for both white and Negro." The letter continued, "The apprehension and conviction of those guilty of the lynching as well as punishment of those who allowed this lynching to occur will prove to us that your abhorrence of lawlessnes and debauchery is sincere and without regard to race, color or creed.'

The Youth Congress has offered $500.00 for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of lynchers. This amount has been added to a similar reward offered by the ILD.

# Florida Lynching Within Federal Jurisdiction Says ILD Labor Group

The Atlanta Daily World

Declaring that on the face of the facts as published in press dispatches the lynching last October 11 or 12 of Jesse James Payne, Negro youth, at Madison, Fla., is a clear violation of the federal Civil Rights Law, Congressman Vito Marcantonio, president of the International Labor Defense, today called upon Attorney General Tom Clark for action leading to a prosecution.

Atlanta, Georgia

"If ever there was a case which comes within the federal civil rights law even as it has been whittled down by judicial interpretation, this is it," Mr. Marcantonio said. 11-9-45

"There are many points of evidence to substantiate this. Only one need be cited. This is the fact that the sheriff, a civil officer, admittedly had sole possession and custody of the only key to the jai; that a key was used to open the jail take out Payne, and lynch him.

"In other cases the Department of Justice, and especially its civil liberties division, has squirmed out of action on grounds that the civil rights law did not cover the exact circumstances of the individual case. This time, on the face of it, they can't.

"The ILD will demand and redemand both federal and state action to punish the lynchers of Payne. Failure to inflict the full measure of the law for this murder, will add further disgrace to the American people, who I know do not condone lynchings.

"The ILD reward of $500 for arrest and punishment of the lyners, to which a similar reward offered by the Southern Negro Youth Congress has been added, will apply to punishment under any law, whether state or federal."

# One Lynching In 1945 Reported

Atlanta Daily World
Fla.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.,— According to the records complied in the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, one person was lynched during the year 1945. This information was released to the press by President F. D. Patterson. 12-29-45

The release pointed out that this is one person less than the number lynched in 1944 and two less than the number lynched in 1943. There were five lynchings in 1942 as compared with three in the year 1941.

The person lynchd in 1945 was a Negro farm hand, charged with assault with rape in Flo[illegible]. He was removed from the county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key and taken about seven miles from town and shot to death.

47d (1) a-1945

7205

# Florida Lynching

The latest outburst of mob violence and lynch-law in Madison, Florida, whcih blocked justice and took the life of Jesse Payne while he still protested his innocence, calls for Federal action. *The New York Amsterdam News*

The investigation that Gov. Millard Caldwell of Florida started has brought out little except a statement that Payne died "at hands of persons unknown." *New York, N. Y.*

That does not satisfy justice.

These are the questions that must be answered:

Why was Payne left unguarded when an attempt had been made on his life previously by a Madison mob? Where did the key come from that opened the cell? How did it get out of the hands of proper officials into the possession of lynchers? How was it possible for the murderers to remove Payne without him making an outcry? Is it true that the father of the victim sat on the grand jury that indicted the accused?

The conscience of America demands that these questions be answered clearly. All murderers must be brought to justice swiftly. No stone should be left unturned to win the war against this kind of Hitlerism at home. *11-10-45*

Senator Claude Pepper of Florida is one of the supporters of the anti-lynch bill, this atrocity in his home state is the best argument for such a federal measure.

## Fla. Sheriff Absolved in Payne Lynching

*The Afro American Baltimore Md.*

MADISON, Fla.—Sheriff Lonnie T. Davis was absolved last week by the Madison County grand jury of any responsibility for the lynching of Jesse Payne, who was taken from the County jail the night of Oct. 21 and shot.

The jury, summoned at the request of Governor Caldwell to investigate the case, reported it had no evidence to indicate who killed Payne, and said it found no negligence by the sheriff in handling the case.

In a report to Florida's governor Millard F. Caldwell, Watson called for a special grand jury to probe the lynching Oct. 11.

The attorney general's report and recommendations came on the heels of the demand by the Southern Negro Youth congress that those guilty of negligence and complicity in the case be punished to the full extent of the law. It reveals that there was no evidence of breaking the jail by the prisoner's captors.

**Cites Use of Keys**

"On the contrary," the attorney general states, "the evidence all pointed to the fact that he had been removed by the use of keys used to unlock a gate to the jail yard and to unlock two separate doors to the jail structure itself, one outer and one inside, and that the prisoner had been taken from an unlocked cell where two other prisoners were sleeping without waking either of these two . . ."

The sheriff, who was disclosed by the report to be the uncle of the five and one-half year old girl allegedly raped, stated that he alone had a key to the front door of the jail and that he and the deputy alone had keys to the gate and the inside door.

That this case is a clear violation of the federal civil rights code is shown by the section of Watson's report which states, "It is my opinion that there is sufficient evidence in the facts above enumerated and recited to justify a conclusion that the sheriff did not exercise that degree of precaution and care that he should have in seeing that the Negro was protected from what happened to him."

**U. S. Probing Case** *11-10-45*

The Southern Negro Youth congress has been assured by Assistant U. S. Attorney General Theron L. Caudle that the Department of Justice is making an investigation were the result of inept or racially prejudiced officer leadership."

He said there is the tendency to boredom and homesickness now that the war is over. Both Negro and white servicemen want to come home, he added. This is due largely to the long period which most of these men have been assigned to overseas duty, accentuated by an almost complete absence of recreational facilities and female companionship.

The highest morale among Negroes in the Navy is to be found among those assigned to ship duty, naval air stations, and air fields, Granger reported. He attributed care in the selection and assignment of duties as well as quarters had made for a minimum of difficulty. The men in most cases have been of superior qualifications, he pointed out.

Among the three naval vessels inspected at Pearl Harbor, the Arctic, the Budge, and the Vereas, only on the latter did there seem to be elements of segregation present, Granger said, and by the same token the only ship visited which showed any real strain between Negro and white personnel. Even that, he ventured, was less than in shore activities.

He said the naval installation at Kaneok in the Hawaiian islands was almost a "model" of good race relationships and morale.

**Manner Criticized**

The lowest morale to be found was among construction battalions and Seabees, Granger stated. He gave as the reason the assignment of all Negroes to hard unskilled and stevedore duties, while whites were assigned to headquarters detachments. However, he made mention of the 21st Seabee Battalion stationed on the island of Luzon, describing the morale as "excellent." *11-10-45*

Somewhere between the best and the worse are the marines, he declared. "They are still adhering to the strict segregation. He said that five Negroes were sent to officer candidate school of the Marine corps, but not one received a commission. Moreover, he revealed that a number of Negroes had tried to re-enlist in the marines, only to be told that no orders have been given for re-enlistment of Negroes.

Reporting on the racial conflict which arose last December on the island of Guam, the results of which were stiff sentences for 45 of the Negro sailors involved.

Granger said that outstanding lawyers among his party carefully investigated the records of the court of inquiry and the court-martial proceedings and that they "took no exception to the technical conduct" of the trial.

Frequent conflict is shown between Negro personnel and the all-white shore police force which "sets up an atmosphere of conflict and distrust," Granger said, adding this is probably a carry-over from their contacts with white policemen in civilian life.

He said that there is no doubt that a great deal of unrest and not a little of the racial conflict stems from the lack of girls around. "A few Negro WAVES in the islands would go a long ways to boost morale," Granger added.

He said they encountered no more than a dozen Negro officers during the entire trip. Among these were Lt. Edward Hope of Washington, D. C., at Pearl Harbor while three officers, Martin, Sublett and Nelson were on Eniwetok; Lts. Philip Barnes and Reginald Goodwin held forth on Siapan, and the only Negro Seabee officer, Ensign Joseph Williams, was stationed in the Gulf of Leyte.

**Replies to Criticism**

Asked about the insinuations of the NAACP that he was "the tool" of the navy, Granger reduced the charge to a question as to whether the navy is honest and whether he, as an observer, is competent.

"I think the answer to the first is in the report I have given," Granger declared. "Regarding my own capability and wisdom, you have to determine whether I am a competent social worker and whether the techniques I have applied are such as to bring out the truth; and whether my experience as a sensitive Negro and a former serviceman in the last war and one consistently working for improvement stands up under examination." *11-10-45*

Granger said that Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, commander in chief of the U. S. Pacific fleet, gave an "unhesitating yes" to his inquiry about the use of Negroes in all branches of service in the postwar navy. He told Granger that if he would prepare a recommendation and submit it to him he would endorse it on the basis of the experience in the use of Negroes in World War II.

## Fla. Attorney General Finds Official Guilty

*Chicago Defender*

*Chicago, Ill.*

*11-10-45*

### Governor Urged To Call Grand Jury For Probe

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Immediate suspension of Sheriff Lonnie Davis who was involved in the Madison County lynching of Jesse James Payne was urged this week by Attorney General J. Tom Watson of Florida.

# GOVERNOR ORDERS GRAND JURY TO INVESTGATE LYNCHING

Birmingham, Ala. — Immediate suspension of Sheriff Lonnie Davis who was involved in the Madison County lynching of Jesse James Payne was urged this week by Attorney General J. Tom Watson of Florida.

In a report to Florida's governor Millard F. Caldwell, Watson called for a special grand jury to probe the lynching Oct. 0[illegible].

The attorney general's report and recommendations came on the heels of the demands by the Southern Negro Youth congress that those guilty of negligence and complicity in the case be punished to the full extent of the law. It reveals that there was no evidence of breaking the jail by the prisoner's captors.

**Cites Use of Keys**

"On the contrary," the attorney general states, "the evidence all pointed to the fact that he had been removed by the use of keys used to unlock a gate to the jail yard and to unlock two separate doors to the jail structure itself, one outer and one inside, and that the prisoner had been taken from an unlocked cell where two other prisoners were sleeping without waking either of these two . . ." of the case. Louis E. Burnham, SNYC organizational secretary, who forwarded Watson's report to Caudle, pointed out that the report "Levels a heavy hand of guilt at Sheriff Lonnie Davis and his deputy, and provides further ground for the conclusion that the Department of Justice is well within its authority in taking action in the case. It is to be expected that this action will be pressed vigorously to the end that federal indictment and conviction may be secured if warranted by the facts disclosed."

"The American people, especially Negroes, are in need of assurances, through action, that our government is no less inclined to use its power to guarantee civil liberties in the south than in occupied Germany or Japan," Burnham concluded.

A $1,000 reward has been offered for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the lynchers by the Southern Negro Youth congress and the International Labor defense.

The sheriff who was disclosed by the report to be the uncle of th efive and one-half year old girl allegedly raped, stated that he alone had a key to the front door of the jail and that he and the deputy alone had keys to the gate and the inside door.

That this case is a clear violation of the federal civil rights code is shown by the section of Watson's report which states, "It is my opinion that there is sufficient evidence in the facts above enumerated and recited to justify a conclusion that the sheriff did not exercise that degree of precaution and care that he should have in seeing that the Negro was protected from what happened to him."

**U. S. Probing Case**

The Southern Negro Youth congress has been assured by Assistant U. S. Attorney General Theron L. Caudle that the Department of Justice is making an investigation

47d(1)(b) Tennessee Discussions of

1943 7206

# Organization Urges Tenn. Negro Citizens To Take Lead For Scales Lynch Probe

1-2-45

The interest of Tennessee Negro citizens in the lynching of James Scales, who was shot to death on the campus of the State Training School for Colored Boys, commonly known as the Herbert Domain, and located in White, Bledsoe and Van Buren Counties, is at fever heat, according to a indications of communication sent over the state by the Southern Association for the Improvement of Colored Citizens Inc. 1-2-45

Excerpt from the communication are as follows: "The State of Tenn. has offered a reward of $500 and this has been supplemented by $1200 or more by organizations at Nashville, and the leading organizations of the Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance and the NAACP Chapter of Nashville as well as at Jackson, Tenn. through the Southern Association for the Improvement of Colored Citizens Inc., along with the Baptist Ministers' Alliance of that city.

"The Southern Association is sending a committee to the Legislature to renew its efforts to relocate the school.

"If we are to be safe; if we are to enjoy citizenship and protection of the law, then something ought to be done about this matter. If you believe the efforts made here are right and that something ought to be done, we ask you to write letters of encouragement to us who are willing to face this arduous task.

"And it is going to take some funds to make this fight, and if you think the cause is worthy, call on yourself, your clubs and organizations and raise some funds for the cause. Send donations to Rev. M. M. League, Box 12, Nashville, Tenn., and Mr. J. H. Moten, Southern Association Box 447 Jackson, Tenn.

"We too, ask you to find out who represents your District in the Tennessee State Legislature, as we want you to write them too. The Legislature convenes Jan. 1, 1945.

"It is understood that no warrants have been issued, and no one apprehended for this crime, and the Assistant Superintendent of the institution claims not to know any one connected with the boy's death. The state authorities seem to think it is a forgotten affair But those who are up there at the institution now are not safe; and with the slightest provocation the school would be burned the boys killed, unless something is done to make men respect the law. 1-2-45

"This is a serious affair, and every Tennessean, regardless of color, should aid in this matter."

# No Indictment Of Scales Lynchers Likely, Is Belief

Nashville, Tennessee

9-14-45

Nashville Globe

Apparently satisfied that James T. Scales, who was lynched on the campus of the state reformitory for colored boys at Pikeville in November of last year is to be adjudged as "having come to his death at the hands of parties unknown," the local Interdenominational Ministers Alliance is about ready to refund more than $800 it had collected as a fund with which to aid in the prosecution of the guilty parties.

A letter was received in an envelope of the alliance by the Globe and although unsigned, indications are that it is official the text of the announcement promising to refund all money put up by local citizens is as follows:

The pikeville committee of the Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance takes this means to advise the public that it is now making plans to return the reward fund. This fund was given at the first mass meeting held at Spruce Street Baptist church immediately after the lynching of James Scales at Pikeville, Tenn., last November. We assured the public at that meeting that the fund was for the purpose of a reward fund to be given to any person or persons giving information leading to the arrest and conviction of the slayers of James Scales. Up to this date no one has been arrested. Thus we are keeping the agreement that we made at the time that we collected the fund, if no conviction was made we would return the money. All persons who have cancelled checks or receipts that we gave them at that time and advised you to keep are urged to find them in preparation for the time when it will be announced that your money will be returned. The date on which this money will be returned will be announced in this paper within the near future. Please watch this column for future announcements about this matter. 9-14-45

Scales, a 17-year old boy, who had been sent to Pikeville reformitory on a minor offense was made a trusty at the institution shortly thereafter. On the morning of November 23, the wife and daughter of the superintendent of the reformitory were found murdered. Later in the day Scales was apprehended and put in the Pikeville jail and still later he was carried to the reformitory. In the meantime, it was reported he had confessed to murdering the two women. But as far as the public knows, there was no proof of his guilt except the alleged confession. There was no report of finding his fingerprints on the death-dealing weapons found near the body of the two women. But Scales was shot to death by "parties unknown." They had first intended to hang the boy, but, reports say an official of the reformitory persuaded the "unknown parties" not to hang the boy. 9-14-45

When news of the tragic affair reached Gov. Prentice Cooper, he dispatched members of his highway patrol to Pikeville with instructions to investigate both the "murder and the lynching." There were all kinds of rumors going the rounds some of them throwing doubt on the guilt of Scales. It was believed, at the time when Gov. Coopers' investigators made their report, it would make a case against the lynchers and also disprove the charge that the Scales boy was guilty of murdering the women. But this report, apparently, was never made public in its entirety.

Gov. Cooper went out of office last January and Gov. Jim Nance McCord took office. It was expected that he would reveal everything that investigators had unearthed. But little has been heard about the investigation up until now. Many of the persons who gave money to aid in the prosecution of the mob members have lately been asking about the case. It seems that local citizens who raised the fund of over $800 are now convinced that no more is to be said about the murders and the lynching and nobody brought to justice. They, therefore, feel it timely to refund all money paid for apprehending the lynchers. As is stated in the communication above published, the Ministerial Alliance will choose a time and place for refunding the money and make the proper announcement some time soon.

Following the Pikeville tragedy of last November a hard fight was made to remove Negro boys from the reformitory and to build an industrial school for delinquent Negro youth nearer the center of Negro population. Gov. McCord at first appeared impressed with the requests for the removal of the boys and appointed a committee of eminent white persons to make an investigation and recommendations. The committee headed by the noted Bishop Dandridge recommended that the Pikeville institution be abandoned, notwithstanding the money already spent at the place. However, Gov. McCord appears to have been unwilling to build the suggested school but instead has taken steps to make some improvements at Pikeville and continue running the institution. His action seems not to have met the approval of anybody interested in the welfare of delinquent Negro boys. It is held that it will be impossible to maintain a desirable industrial school at the place and that the state is wasting money as well as doing the cause of rehabilitation of delinquent youth a grave injustice.

7207

## Grease and Rape

Black Dispatch 1945

The recent murder and rape of Mrs. Panta Lou Liles has the enforcement officials in Tulsa frantic. Resort has been made to the FBI for assistance, and the frustrated peace officers, finding no substantial and definite trace of the sex maniac who apparently is responsible for a series of sex crimes in the Tulsa area, have finally decided to purchase a lie detector in order to modernize their methods of investigation.

6-9-45

But there is one clue that has recurrently developed during this reign of terror in the Oil Capital that tells its own story. In at least three instances, according to reports, this morbid sex degenerate, whose depravity sinks to the depths of human debasement, has left signs of grease about the premises, and especially on the beds where he has tortured his victims and entered into his inhuman sex carnivals. This is unerring evidence that should not be overlooked.

Grease and cork are the two methods criminals, whose faces are ofttimes white, have in the past used to convey the idea Negroes have committed crimes. Many a synthetic darkened face has caused innocent black youths to bite the dust, and bring unjust and unbelievable charges against America's largest minority group. It is perhaps the fervor with which whites rush to look for criminality among blacks, ofttimes overlooking the actual source of crime that has brought Tulsa to the place where white women are afraid to sleep at night in their own homes.

6-9-45

All Negroes who think soberly, and have memories, realize and know that no lie detector is necessary, nor is the FBI required to determine why grease and cork are necessary accessories of rapists, and no enforcement officer with any experience in crime detection needs additional information on this subject. Too many whites have been caught with their faces blacked, and too many times officers of the law have refused to tell the truth and expose this obvious attempt to hitch henious crimes to a black hide.

Last week in the Tulsa community we find three 16-year-old white youths responsible for the death of a white girl, and confession on their part that they sought to rape the girl, who in her efforts to escape from her tormentors, leaped from the car and fractured her skull. She later died. County Attorney M. S. Sims heard revolting testimony from the mouths of these white youths. They openly declared that after getting the girl in the car, they demanded that she strip all of her clothing from her body, and that they took turns about getting in the back seat, using bestial violence in their endeavor to overcome and violate the person of Georgia Williams, an 18-year-old telephone operator.

Despite this sort of moral delinquency in the white community it is the information of this writer that the Tulsa police department has been busy rounding up Negro suspects. This writer has no evidence to present enforcement officials respecting who it was that killed and raped Panta Lou Liles, but one thing we can say with definite certainty, and that is, if the Tulsa police department continues to spend its time looking for clues down in the Negro community, while overlooking the obvious evidence of "greasy" fraud and moral depravity in the white section of that city life for white women is going to continue to be a dangerous hazard on the banks of the Arkansas.

47d(2)a-1945

7208

# Community Leaders Ask U. S. Action on Florida Lynching

Daily Worker New York N.Y.

By EUGENE GORDON

How can the United States pretend to give "world leadership" when she stands mute and apparently unconcerned before lynchers? That in substance was the answer to the question put by the Daily Worker yesterday to trade union and community leaders on the lynching last Thursday of Jesse Payne, Negro farm laborer, at Monticello, Fla.

**"Until the United States cleans her own backyard of 'incidents' like the Florida lynching," said Mrs. Mabel Staupers, president of the National Association of Colored Nurses, "Germany and Japan should find it most difficult to believe in the sincerity of the democracy we're trying to give them."**

Moran Weston, field secretary, Negro Labor Victory Committee, paraphrased Frederick Douglass to the effect that "the conscience of America must be aroused to accept responsibility for the lynchings, beatings and discrimination against her citizens." These outrages "are all the more destructive of the world's good will," Weston said, "because the United States presumably helped to destroy fascist manifestations in Europe."

Weston added that "fortunately, most of organized labor, and especially the CIO," is alive to its responsibility "in helping to stamp out such manifestations of the fascist spirit in America."

Thelma Dale, acting executive secretary of the National Negro Congress, said the lynching showed that the "old symbols of second-class citizenship for the Negro in the United States" persist, "despite the war against fascism," which we ended "just recently in joyous celebrations," and "despite our boasting that we hold moral leadership of the world."

The Negro and the white people "who served in the armed forces and in the battle of production," Miss Dale said, "will not be cheated of the victory they helped achieve." She continued:

**"The federal government must assume responsibility for bringing about justice in this and other situations where state officials take no measures to protect the rights and lives of the people. The anti-lynching bill, now bottled up in the House Judiciary Committee, must be forced out by sufficient signatures on Discharge Petition No. 3."**

## *Fight Against Lynching Must Go On*

Daily Worker

Bronx, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker: N.Y.

I was astonished and certainly shocked by the item in your Oct. 12 issue, "Florida Mob Lynches Negro." Astonished that such an item should appear on the last page and in the last column and the last item. Touched, too, that we here dispense "justice" (?) in mob violence!

Particularly, as on the cover page of this week's issue of the New Masses, the leading article is announced in large letters, "The Klan Declares War."

A lynching is terrific news! Merits front page spread, especially as the fight is on between the privileged and the underdogs both economically and minority groups. 10-20-45

The UP release said that even the child's name is unknown for whom young Payne paid by his life. We cannot and dare not let a crime like this go unchallenged even though we cannot bring back the unfortunate youth.

For democracy and justice the fight must go on unabated.

E. ROBIN.

STILL AT IT

47d(2)(b)

Discussions of

1945

7209

## NEW LITTER OF RATS

# Young Dutch Nazis Are Barring Final Liberation of Holland

Atlanta Const.

By L. S. B. SHAPIRO.

WITH THE CANADIAN 1ST ARMY IN NORTHERN HOLLAND, April 6.—(NANA)—(By Wireless)—The British and Canadian troops fighting to liberate stricken Holland already have taken enough Dutch SS prisoners to indicate that at least two battalions composed of fanatical Hollanders with Nazi leanings currently are fighting alongside the Germans. These young Dutchmen are the only first-class troops barring the way to complete liberation of their country. 4-7-45

These Dutch SS troops have been trained in Germany, and wear regular German uniforms. Their Nazi indoctrination appears even more complete than that of the regular German SS and they are the most arrogant of all prisoners currently filling the P. O. W. cages. Although they are officered by Dutchmen, there is a small percentage of Germans intermingled with each formation. When captured by our troops, these Dutch Nazis require elaborate protection from the fury of their own compatriots, who would gladly lynch them if given the opportunity.

Most of the Dutch SS are 20 to 24 years of age, although we have taken a sprinkling of youngsters of 16 and 17 who were taken to Germany four years ago and educated in the Hitler youth movement. They returned to Holland and now are perfect examples of Nazi indoctrination.

A typical Dutch SS, now a prisoner, is 16-year-old Mark Ehrmann, of Amsterdam. He was captured this morning. His father is a German-born violinist in the Amsterdam symphony orchestra, and his mother is Dutch. In 1940, at the age of 12, he went to live with a German aunt in Frankfurt and was given an education in the Hitler Jugend. He returned to Amsterdam last December and joined the Dutch SS of his own volition. When his mother and father objected to his joining the German army, he denounced both his parents to the German authorities. He is the perfect prototype of the fanatical youngster in Lillian Hellman's current play, "Tomorrow the World."

Although he had a terrifying experience this morning when his entire platoon, with the exception of himself, was wiped out, his spirit was unbroken when he was brought into the prison cage. I asked him if he thought he had made a mistake joining the SS.

"No," he said. "I am only ashamed that I was captured alive."

I asked him if he intended to return to Amsterdam after the war. He replied, "No. I no longer consider myself Dutch. My life is devoted to the Fuehrer. I never want to see my mother and father again." 4-7-45

Prison cage officials told me there are hundreds of Dutch youngsters like Ehrmann. Apparently the Germans combed Holland for children with some German blood in them and sent them to the Reich for education. The problem of what to do with them seems insuperable. Certainly Mark Ehrmann appears to be an incurable case.

Among food and medical supplies prepared for shipment to the Amsterdam and Rotterdam area are salves for skin disease reported rampant there. The population in these centers is reliably reported to have been eating tulip bulbs, which have good nutritive qualities, but result in ugly skin disorders. In eastern Holland, now being liberated by the Canadians, food supplies are adequate as this is the richest farm area in Holland. 4-7-45

## FRENCH MOBS SEIZE 2 COLLABORATIONISTS

New York Times

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PARIS, May 25—Renewal of violence against collaborationists was reported today after it had ceased for several weeks. In Nimes, in the south of France, prison guards had difficulty in preventing a mob from lynching one Pierre Lacassagne, whose sentence of death had been commuted by Gen. Charles de Gaulle. He had been found guilty of denouncing patriots to Germans. 5-26-45

Learning that Lacassagne was to be transferred to an internment camp, a crowd waylaid the police wagon and was about to hang him when a squad of gendarmes intervened.

At St. Halery, in the north of France, a mob beat up a man named Louis Roche and handed him over to the police, asserting that during the occupation he worked for the Gestapo.

At Montpellier last night a bomb was exploded outside the home of a lawyer who has been defending collaborationists brought before the court of justice. Only material damage was done. A similar incident was reported this morning from Fontenay, near Paris, where grenades were thrown through a window of a house occupied by a man suspected of having aided the Germans. No one was hurt.

## THE FLORIDA LYNCHING

To the Editor of The News: 10-28-45

On Oct. 12, the wires of The Associated Press carried the story of the brutal lynching of Jesse James Payne in Madison County, Florida. Payne had pleaded innocent to charge of attack and attempted rape and was being held for trial. Birmingham, Ala.

According to Tuskegee reports this lynching was the first for 1945. Speedy action on the part of those charged with protection of the citizens of the United States can make it the last. The lynchers of Jesse James Payne can be exposed and convicted. They are undoubtedly known to many people in Northwest Florida. If the criminals are not identified and brought to summary justice in this case, the signal will have been given to lynch-minded Fascists throughout the nation. The Ku Klux Klan groups which are organizing will know that they can launch their attacks against the lives of Negroes without fear of prosecution. Birmingham News

The fight for justice in this case is the fight for our future, for the democracy which millions of fighting men sacrificed and died to preserve. Renewed effort on the part of Congress to pass anti-lynching legislation will do much to reassure the American people that our soldiers fought for democracy in America as well as in Japan and the Balkans.

LOUIS E. BURHAM.

7210

# ILD OFFERS $500 REWARD FOR LYNCHERS' CONVICTION

The Worker

A reward of $500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who lynched Jesse J. Payne, Negro youth, in Madison, Florida, sometime on October 11 and 12 has been posted by the International Labor Defense.

Payne, who had pleaded not guilty to a charge of attacking a five-year-old girl, was taken from the Madison jail and shot to death. The jail, next to the home of Sheriff Lonnie Davis, was left unguarded overnight. He had been brought to Madison on Oct. 11 for arraignment after being held in Raiford state prison since his arrest on July 4.

The reward offer was transmitted to Gov. Millard Caldwell by Vito Marcantonio, president, and Robert W. Dunn, treasurer of the I. L. D.

The reward money has been set aside by the International Labor Defense from the Anna Damon Fund, set up to commemorate and to continue the work of Miss Damon, who until her death in 1944 was for eleven years secretary of the organization. 10-31-45

# $500 Reward Offered

The New York Amsterdam News

A reward of $500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who lynched Jesse J. Payne in Madison, Fla., sometime on Oct. 11 and 12 was posted last week by the International Labor defense.

Payne, who had pleaded not guilty to a charge of attacking a five-year-old white girl, was taken from the Madison jail and shot to death. The jail next to the house of Sheriff Lonnie Davis, was left unguarded overnight. He had been brought to Madison for arraignment after being held in Raiford state prison since his arrest on July 4. 10-27-45

The reward money has been set aside by the ILD from the Anna Damon fund, set up to commemorate and to continue the work of Miss Damon, who until her death in 1944 was for 11 years secretary of the organization.

# ILD Posts $500 Reward For Florida Lynchers

Chicago Defender, Ill.

10-27-45

MADISON, Fla. — The lynchers of Jesse James Payne, 17-year-old Negro youth were being sought this week as a $500 reward leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible was posted by the International Labor Defense.

The reward money has been set aside by the ILD from the Anna Damon Fund to "put a stop to the practice of lynching, an expression of un-Americanism and of 'white supremacy' which is a blight upon our country."

Payne, who had pleaded not guilty to a charge of attacking a five year old girl, was taken from the Madison jail and shot to death. The jail is situated next to the home of Sheriff Lonnie Davis and had been left unguarded overnight. He had been brought to Madison on the 11th for arraignment after being held in Raiford state prison since his arrest July 4.

The offer, which was made public and transmitted to Governor Millard Caldwell this week, follows:

10-27-45

"A reward of five hundred dollars is hereby offered for information which leads to the arrest, conviction and punishment of any person or persons for the murder of Jesse J. Payne, who was taken from the county jail at Madison, Fla., on October 11 or 12th, 1945, and lynched. Payment will be made upon final judgment of conviction, without regard to any other rewards posted. This offer will remain effective until further notice. New York, N. Y., October 17, 1945." Vito Marcantonio, president, Robert W. Dunn, treasurer.

Meanwhile, in a letter to the Civil Liberties Division of the Dept. of Justice, Louis E. Burnham, organizational secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress demanded that the department take immediate action to bring to "trial and punishment the authorities who were negligent in their protection of Jesse Payne, victim of a Florida lynch mob, as well as those who committed the barbaric crime of lynching."

Burnham cited the fact that the area in which the lynching accured is Northwest Florida, where in 1933 the brutal lynching and mutilation of Claude Neal took place, and where in 1944 three Negro youths were rail-roaded to the electric chair after a trial which was a mockery of justice.

"Now the habitual lynchers have struck again," the letter continued. "If the criminals are not identified and brought to summary justice in this case, the signal will have been given to lynch-minded fascists throughout the South and the nation." 10-27-45

The letter concluded, "The lynchers of Jesse Payne can be exposed and convicted. They are undoubtedly known to many people in Northwest Florida. An indignant American people demand action. We call upon the Department of Justice to make a thorough investigation of the case and to do everything possible to bring to trial and punishment the authorities who were negligent in their protection of the victim as well as those who committed the barbaric crime of lynching."

7211

# Sparks Delays His Verdict On Worley James

Montgomery Advertiser

## Defense Asks His Life Be Spared Till Drew Case Is Settled

7-18-45

Gov. Chauncey Sparks withheld a decision on the fate of Worley James last night after defense attorneys urged him not to let the negro die in the electric chair "and leave the Drew case unsolved."

They referred to the 1944 slaying of Mrs. Lynn C. Drew, of Decatur, Ill., 19-year-old bride of a Maxwell Field air cadet, an offense for which James has been indicted but never tried.

The 39-year-old negro is scheduled to die in Kilby Prison's electric chair Friday on one of two other capital charges against him, having carnal knowledge of a 10-year-old girl of his own race. The other indictment was for rape of a negro woman.

Defense Attorney John Sankey told Gov. Sparks at a clemency hearing yesterday that James was sentenced to death not for carnal knowledge but "because of the Drew case."

7-19-45

"It was indelibly stamped on the minds of the jury," Sankey declared, "that he was the man charged with the murder of the Drew woman."

Floyd Mooneyham, another member of the defense counsel, told the governor "the jury from the beginning was doing nothing but watching developments" in the investigation of the death of the soldier's wife, and charged that Solicitor Temple Seibels sought to "keep from trying the Drew case."

Solicitor Seibels insisted, however, there was "not a scintilla of evidence about the Drew case" introduced during the carnal knowledge trial, and declared, "I know the negro had a fair trial."

He described James as "the worst criminal that ever faced the bar of justice," and appealed to the governor to "let this verdict stand."

Both Solicitor Seibels and Mr. Sankey agreed they could not recall a negro being put to death in Alabama for raping one of his own race, but the solicitor observed, "it's about time it was done."

George Bliss Jones, secretary to Gov. Sparks, said the governor's decision would be announced today for James as well as for Ed Lucky Patton, Hale County negro, charged with the slaying of two white men.

A clemency hearing for Patton, convicted on a charge of killing James C. Findlay, Hale County farmer, followed that for James. The defendant told the governor he knifed and shot Findlay after the latter struck him during an argument. The negro is scheduled to die Friday.

Patton also was indicted on a charge of killing John Parker when the latter attempted to assist Findlay.

# Sparks Saves Worley James

Montgomery Advertiser

## Commutes Sentence To Life Imprisonment; Another Dies

7-20-45

Gov. Chauncey Sparks spared the life of one condemned negro yesterday but ordered another put to death shortly after midnight this morning in Kilby prison's electric chair.

A commutation of his sentence to life imprisonment saved Worley James from the chair only a few hours before he was scheduled to die on conviction of having carnal knowledge of a 10-year-old negro girl.

The Governor refused to interfere, however, in the execution of Ed Lucky Patton, Hale County negro charged with the slaying of two white men.

Patton was convicted in 1944 of killing James F. Findlay, a white farmer, during an argument. He also was indicted for the death of John Parker, another white man who lost his life in an effort to help Findlay. He was electrocuted at 12:13 a.m. today.

Besides the carnal knowledge charge on which he was convicted, James also is under indictment for the 1944 killing of Mrs. Lynn C. Drew, bride of a Maxwell Field air cadet, and also for the rape of a negro woman.

Whether he would be tried on either or both of the remaining capital cases, however, was uncertain, Solicitor Temple Seibels said he did not know.

Defense attorneys told Gov. Sparks at a clemency hearing yesterday the 19-year-old James received the death sentence not for the crime of which he was convicted, but "because of the Drew case."

7-20-45

The Governor, in announcing the commutation, told reporters "under the facts I think the punishment was excessive." He declined to discuss it further.

# Negro Sent Up For Assaulting White Woman

Montgomery Advertiser

## Jury Convicts Bledsoe And Gives Him Fifty Years; Inspects Scene

7-20-45

Willie Bledsoe, negro, tried yesterday in circuit court on a charge of assaulting a white woman, was found guilty by the jury and sentenced to 50 years in the penitentiary.

The verdict was brought in at 8 p.m. after the jury had had the case approximately three hours.

The jury, "sweating it out" in a jury room bathed in the late afternoon sun, had a temporary break when members went for a bus ride to the scene of the crime and stopped en route at the Coca-Cola plant for cold drinks.

The jury received the case about 5 p.m. When no decision had been reached within an hour, the members requested that they be permitted to see the premises where the crime was committed and with one of the jurymen, J. H. Bagley as host, they rode a City Lines bus which called for and later returned them to the courthouse steps. Mr. Bagley is City Lines manager.

Stanhope Elmore, proprietor of the Coca-Cola plant here, was also a juryman and at his invitation the bus stopped at the bottling plant and all the jurymen were permitted to pause and refresh themselves before returning to the torrid jury room to resume deliberations.

7-20-45

The crime for which Bledsoe was tried took place on the night of June 28. On the stand, the defendant denied any knowledge of the crime. City Detectives M. S. Chisholm and Sam Stearns, however, testified that the woman in the case identified Bledsoe from a group of five negro men as the one who attacked her.

Members of the jury in addition to Mr. Bagley and Mr. Elmore were: Joseph F. Hixon, Edward Lipscomb, C. Earl Ozment, Thomas W. Stacey, Lawrence M. Story, W. O. Baldwin, John T. Buffington, Carl H. Newman and Arthur H. Lifsey.

# Eufaula Negro Given Death

Montgomery Advertiser

## 70 Highway Patrolmen Stand Guard At Slaying Trial

EUFAULA, ALA., July 17—(AP)—While a force of 70 highway patrolmen stood guard, a special circuit court jury today convicted Peter Paul Hall, 23-year-old negro, of murder in the rape-drowning of a young white girl, and fixed his punishment at death in the electric chair.

Judge J. S. Williams set the execution for Aug. 17, but the case automatically goes to the State Supreme Court under Alabama law.

The jury of 12 white men deliberated only 15 minutes before returning a verdict that brought to a close a three-hour trial and climaxed a two-week period of tension in this South Alabama town.

7-18-45

Every precaution was taken to maintain order after fighting flared between whites and negroes 10 days ago in what Police Chief H. L. McCullohs said was an outgrowth of the slaying.

### Patrolmen Kept Vigil

Not only highway patrolmen, but local officers and military police kept a vigil in the Barbour County courthouse and outside before and during the trial. Everyone entering the courtroom except officers and reporters was searched. The courthouse had been locked up during the night and was searched before court opened this morning.

The highway patrol installed a radio in the building to communicate with the score or more cars.

Judge Williams after the trial praised the law enforcement officers for their performance of duty during what he termed an "unpleasant" situation and thanked the people for their conduct during the court proceedings.

The courtroom was packed for the trial, but there was no demonstration when the verdict was announced. The judge ordered the spectators to remain in their seats until after the highway patrol began its return trip to Montgomery with the negro. The defendant had been kept at Kilby Prison for safekeeping following his arrest on July 5.

Although he was indicted both on murder and rape charges in the death of Ethel Luck, 18-year-old cotton mill worker, Hall was tried only for murder, and the other complaint was continued.

### Body Found In Creek

The bruised body of Miss Luck was found in a Eufaula creek less than 24 hours after she disappeared while en route home from work on the Fourth of July.

Eight law enforcement officers, including Sheriff Phil D. Greene, Police Chief McCullohs and Cecil Donaldson, chief of the State Bureau of Investigation, testified the negro confessed to the killing.

The girl's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Luck, both told the jury they heard her scream the morning of her disappearance, but that a search failed to find her. The father said he reported his daughter missing, and officers began a hunt which ended in the arrest of the negro and discovery of the girl's body.

7-18-45

Hall did not take the stand and no defense testimony was offered by the court-appointed counsel, Lee Clayton, Sr., and Archie Grubb.

# Worley James Up On Clemency Plea

Montgomery Advertiser

## He And Another Ask Life; Death Date Thursday

A clemency hearing today before Gov. Sparks will decide the fate of Worley James, 39-year-old negro charged with the slaying of Mrs. Lynn C. Drew, bride of a Maxwell Field air cadet.

7-18-45

The governor also will review the case of Ed Lucky Patton, alias Oliver Patton, Hale County negro charged with the killing of two white men.

Both negroes are scheduled to die in Kilby prison's electric chair shortly after midnight Thursday.

Although James was indicted for the death of the 19-year-old Mrs. Drew, he has not been tried on that charge, but received the death sentence on conviction of having carnal knowledge of a 10-year-old negro girl. He also was indicted for the rape of a negro woman.

The nude body of Mrs. Drew, whose home was at Decatur, Ill., was found June 16, 1944, in a ditch near the suburban home where she was staying while visiting her husband in Montgomery.

Solicitor Temple Seibels said he would not press the murder or rape charges against James if the carnal knowledge verdict was upheld. The State Supreme Court sustained the sentence April 26.

Records in Gov. Sparks' office show James has asked that 23 witnesses be summoned for the clemency hearing.

Patton was convicted of killing James C. Findlay, Hale County farmer, with a shotgun and knife in October, 1944. He also was charged with the death of another white man, John Parker, who was killed with Findlay.

Youth Congress Sends Investigator

# All White Jury Orders Death For 18 Year Old Alabama Boy

Pittsburgh Courier
8-4-45

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—An alarming degree of oppression and terrorizing of the Negro citizens of Eufaula, Ala., where 18-year-old Peter Paul Hall has been sentenced to death by electrocution on August 17 for allegedly raping and killing a white girl was discovered by Southern Negro Congress Executive Secretary Esther V. Cooper there last week.

Part of Miss Cooper's report follows: "Eufaula, Ala., located some twenty-nine miles north of Abbeville, where Mrs. Recy Taylor was attacked last September, is the scene of one of the most serious racial situations in America. The population of this little town was about evenly divided between colored and white citizens up until July 5. Since July 5 when Peter Paul Hall was arrested 'on suspicion" for raping and killing 17-year-old Ethel Luck, a white cotton mill worker, Negroes have been leaving Eufaula daily.

**INHABITANTS LEAVING**

"It was estimated by some to whom I spoke in Eufaula that as many as fifty Negroes have been leaving nightly. Mattie Mae Robinson, cousin of Peter Paul, reported that her white employer said, 'At the rate that colored people are leaving town, there won't be any here soon.'

"I talked with Mrs. Fannie Oliver, aunt of the accused, who has reared him from childhood. The day before I talked to her, Peter Paul had been sentenced to die in the electric chair on August 17. He was sentenced by an all-white jury and no Negroes attended the trial.

"Her story, confirmed by other Negroes to whom I talked in the colored section of Eufaula is as follows:

"About 5:30 in the morning of July 5, four policemen came to her home, located on the Country Club road near Eufaula, and asked for Peter Paul. He was immediately put into a police car and whisked away. She has not seen him since that time. Mrs. Oliver's first knowledge that her nephew had been accused of rape and murder came from the daily paper which whipped up a mob hysteria against the Negro citizens of the town. A mob of white ruffians was quickly formed which began to attack Negroes in the street. Dr. William McCoo, prominent Negro physician of Eufaula, treated one boy, age 14, who had been beaten by a mob.

"Mrs. Oliver told me her nephew is not 23 years old as reported by the Associated Press, but 18. He was born August 5, 1926.

## Escapes Death

Detroit Tribune 8-11-45

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(AP)—Expressing belief that the penalty was too severe, Gov. Chauncey Sparks commuted to life imprisonment a death sentence against Giles Scott, twenty-eight-year-old Negro, convicted of slugging and robbing a white woman. 8-4-45

# EUFAULA, ALABAMA, IS SCENE OF BITTER RACIAL CONFLICT

Black Dispatch
8-11-45

BIRMINGHAM. — An alarming degree of oppression and terrorizing of the Negro citizens of Eufaula, Alabama, where 18 year old Peter Paul Hall has been sentenced to death by electrocution on August 17 for allegedly raping and killing a white girl was discovered by Southern Negro Youth Congress Executive Secretary, Esther V. Cooper, there last week.

Part of Miss Cooper's report follows: "Eufaula, Alabama, located some 29 miles north of Abbeville where Mrs. Recy Taylor was attacked last September, is the scene of one of the most serious racial situations in America. The population of this little town was about evenly divided between colored and white citizens up until July 5th. Since July 5th, when Peter Paul Hall was arrested "on suspicion" for raping and killing 17 year-old Ethel Luck, a white cotton mill worker, Negroes have been leaving Eufaula daily.

It was estimated by some to whom I spoke in Eufaula that as many as fifty Negroes have been leaving nightly. Mattie Mae Robinson, cousin of Peter Paul, reported that her white employer said, "At the rate that colored people are leaving town, there won't be any here soon. 8-4-45

"I talked with Mrs. Fannie Oliver, aunt of the accused, who has reared him from childhood. The day before I talked to her, Peter Paul had been sentenced to die in the electric chair on August 17th. He was sentenced by an all white jury and no Negroes attended the trial. Mrs. Oliver told me her nephew had always been a good boy who had never given anyone any trouble. He had stoppde school after the first grade because his mother died when he was two and his father later disappeared." Her story, confirmed by other Negroes to whom I talked in the "colored section" of Eufaula is as follows:

"About 5:30 in the morning of July 5, four policeman came to her home, located on the Country Club Road near Eufaula, and asked for Peter Paul. He was immediately put in a police car and stopped school after the first grade him since that time. Mrs. Oliver's first knowledge that her nephew had been accused of rape and murder came from the daily paper which whipped up a mob hysteria against the Negro citizens of the town. . . mob of white ruffians was quickly formed which began to attack Neroes in the street. Dr. William McCoo, prominent Negro physician of Eufaula, treated one boy, age 14, who had been beaten by a mob.

"Governor Sparks of Alabama whose home town is Eufaula called in more than 100 highway police and military police "in event of an emergency." The police remained in Eufaula constantly from July 5th when Peter Paul was arrested until his trial on July 17th.

"Mrs. Oliver told me her nephew is not 23 years old as reported by the Associated Press but 18. He was born August 5, 1926. City officials charged his age for their convenience to make his death sentence more acceptable to the citizens of the state. The trial was railroaded through, the jury coming to a decision in ten minutes time.

"The entire nation must become concerned about this case and the situation in Eufaula. These are the facts: (1) Negroes must be off the streets by 9 p. m. There is a curfew. (2) Night workers are afraid to report to their jobs. (3) An organized and armed mob is ready to terrorize Negroes "at the drop of a hat." (4) An 18 year old youth is scheduled to die on August 17 without benefit of counsel who has been tried in a court where no Negroes were admitted."

A lawyer has been secured who is determined to carry the case to the Supreme Court to see that justice is done in this situation.

47h-1945 California

7212

# Louis Jackson's last words: "Death easier than life"

Los Angeles Evt. Tribune
10-15-45

SAN FRANCISCO — Theatrical to the last, Louis Lee Jackson, who was sentenced to the gas chamber for the murder of Winifred Cecil, white bus driver, told Warden Clinton Duffy, that "It's easier to die than to live", in his last words before dying last Friday at San Quentin prison.

Jackson, 33-year-old ex-convict, went into the gas chamber at 10 a.m. He was pronounced dead 15 minutes later. 10-15-45

In a case which crowded war news off the front pages of San Francisco newspapers, Jackson strangled Miss Cecil in the bus she was driving early one morning last January. He robbed her and is alleged to have raped her.

Variously garrulous and taciturn during his trial, he attempted suicide several times and also unsuccessfully plotted the murder of the deputy district attorney who prosecuted him.

47h-1945

Deleware

7213

# Doomed Soldier Protests Innocence Until the End

The AFro-American
Baltimore MD

WILMINGTON, Del. — "I have found God and I am glad to leave this wicked world."

Those were the last words of Anderson W. Butler, 23, of South Bend, Ind., who died on the gallows of New Castle County Workhouse, Greenbank, Friday for a crime which he bravely maintained until the end that he did not commit. 12-15-45

Executed for the alleged criminal attack of a 12-year-old white girl, the ex-Army private, neatly dressed in a dark blue suit, told 30 persons who witnessed the hanging:

"I am glad I had a chance to get right with God. Some of you may not be so lucky. You might go out on the highway and be killed. You might fall dead in your home. You might have the chance I had.

"Although he has suffered this to happen to me, the Lord has been good to me. Look, he gave me a bright sunny day for the last day of my life. Yes, God has been good to me and I am ready to go."

In this dramatic last-minute statement, Butler repeated his protest of innocence and expressed appreciation for everything that had been done to save him from execution.

Although Butler was not aware of it, a last desperate effort was made Thursday and Friday to have his hanging postponed.

Mrs. Ida Pickings, white, a Baltimore lawyer, who became interested in the case last week after reading a newspaper story of the denial of a clemency plea for Butler by the Delaware Board of Pardons, appealed to Gov. W. W. Bacon to grant a reprieve for further study of the case. 12-15-45

**Request Turned Down**

The Governor, who had not been available to anybody else all week, turned down the request after delaying the execution for a half-hour.

Mrs. Pickings tried futilely all day Thursday to reach the Governor, but was unable to see him until early Friday morning at his apartment.

She made it clear that she represented no organization or group and that she entered the case on her own because she felt that Butler did not receive a fair trial.

"There is no person guilty until fairly tried," she said.

Mrs. Pickings, who came to Wilmington Thursday morning, said, after studying the trial record, that she was convinced that Butler did not receive a fair trial.

She said she would not presume to say whether he was guilty or innocent, but explained that she was interested in justice.

According to Mrs. Pickings, the trial minutes showed much conflicting testimony, most prejudicial conduct against Butler before the jury and lack of identification and lack of connection of time and place.

Butler entered the open-air death chamber of the New Castle County Workhouse at 10:30, walking down a long tunnel leading to it unaided.

**Climbs Gallows Steps**

Escorted by prison officials and the Rev. P. S. Lipscomb, president of the Wilmington NAACP, he unflinchingly climbed the steps of the gallows.

When he was asked by Warden Frank Wilson whether he had anything to say, tears began to stream down his face as he recited a prayer. 12-15-45

He was pronounced dead 12 minutes after the noose was slipped about his neck and the trap sprung.

Among the 30 witnesses to the first Workhouse execution in three years were an AFRO representative and the Rev. Samuel T. Jones, Wilmington minister who served on a jury of 12 selected to see the hanging.

The Rev. Mr. Jones, who was one of Butler's spiritual advisers, said that the ex-soldier was cheerful the night before his death. Butler, however, refused a chicken dinner. 12-15-45

**Give Spiritual Advice**

Others to administer spiritual advice to the condemned man were the Rev. Mr. Lipscomb and John Redmond, executive secretary of the Walnut St. Christian Association.

He was convicted in Oyer and Terminer Court Oct. 1 for the alleged attack of Shirley Creder, who lived near the New Castle Army Air Base where Butler was formerly stationed. The attack took place July 12.

Butler, who was dishonorably discharged after his conviction, contended that another soldier, who has since been discharged, committed the attack.

This soldier, according to Butler, simulated insanity, was transferred to Valley Forge Hospital and then released from the Army and returned to Alabama.

He said that he received the wound in his back, which played a vital role in the trial, when he became involved in an altercation with the other soldier and the latter stabbed him with an icepick.

It was following this incident that the other soldier saw the girl walking along the highway near the Air Base and assaulted her, Butler said. 12-15-45

Butler's body was shipped to his hometown Saturday after it had been open for public view for one hour at Caulk's funeral home. His mother, Mrs. Artisa Butler, and his sister, both of South Bend, left Wilmington on Thursday before the execution after spending two weeks to be near Butler.

## Resentment Flares Following Hanging

The AFro-American
Baltimore, M.D.

WILMINGTON, Del. — Open resentment flared Friday after the hanging of Anderson W. Butler, when one of [illegible] former buddies at the New Castle Army Air Base threatened a crowd of curiosity seekers before Caulk's funeral home. 12-15-45

Pvt. John Crosson warned the crowd not to come to close to the funeral home or he would mete out to them the same fate suffered by Butler. He was arrested but released Saturday.

Three other soldiers told an AFRO reporter after the hanging that tension at the Air Base was loaded with dynamite, and if you struck a match, you would touch off an explosion. 12-15-45

7214

# Soldiers Serve Long Terms For Alleged Attack

8-17-45

## Evidence Shows Commercial Transaction

WASHINGTON —(ANP) —The war department last week officially rejected clemency for Pvts. Frank Fisher Jr. and Edward R. Loury, the two principals of the "Army's Scottsboro" case. The two soldiers, both volunteers, are now serving six and eight year sentences in a federal penitentiary.

Both soldiers were originally sentenced by court-martial to life imprisonment on a rape charge, but upon intervention by Rep. Vito Marcantonio, president of the International Labor defense, and former Judge William H. Hastie, NAACP legal advisor, the life sentences were commuted.

**APPEAL IN '4**

The clemency appeal was filed by Marcantonio and Hastie with President Roosevelt on June 10,1944, was notified of the war department. When Rep. Marcantonio was notified of the war department's rejection of clemency for the two soldiers, he said:

"The decision is an outrage. These men are innocent. There is no question about that. They were framed by 'white supremacy' officers in the United States army. They should be free. 8-17-45

"The case will be appealed to the nation. A national board meeting of the International Labor defense next week will lay plans for a new appeal directly to President Truman, and involvement of every decent American citizen in the campaign to overturn the army's outrageous determination to keep these men imprisoned."

**COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION**

8-17-45

Pvts. Fisher and Loury were sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of "rape" while serving in the Pacific theater of war. Both were army volunteers. The evidence at their trial showed conclusively that the incident on which the "rape" charge was based was a commercial transaction with a willing prostitute. Other evidence which further bolstered this conclusion even more was suppressed by the officers, and never presented to the court-marital.

Fisher and Loury, now serving in the federal penitentiary at Mc Neils Island were charged and convicted in 1943.

# Army Rejects Clemency Plea

The Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh Pennsylvania
8-18-1945

WASHINGTON—(ANP) — The War Department last week officially rejected clemency for Pvts. Frank Fisher Jr. and Edward R. Loury, the two principals in the "Army's Scottsboro" case. The two soldiers, both volunteers, are now serving six and eight-year sentences in a Federal penitentiary.

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# Death Sentence Commuted for GI

the Philadelphia Tribune
8-18-45

WASHINGTON

The sentence to death for attacking a German woman imposed upon Pvt. Chester J. Reid, Philadelphia soldier, once stationed in Germany, has been commuted to life imprisonment, the Adjutant General announced in Washington this week.

Although believed by his buddies to be innocent, Private Allen was convicted by a court-martial and condemned to death on the rape charge early this year.

Miss Elba Allen, sister of the GI, appealed for NAACP intervention after a friend of her brother advised her of his predicament and expressed the belief that he was innocent. 8-25-45

**Entered Army in 1941**

According to Miss Allen, her brother entered the Army in 1941, had maintained a good record in service, and had not been in any trouble in civilian life.

The Philadelphia NAACP appealed to General Eisenhower's headquarters to delay execution of the sentence until records could be studied and brief filed in the soldier's behalf. The Judge Advocate General's Office assured the association that the case would receive careful consideration.

**Sentence Confirmed**

In announcing the decision, the Judge Advocate General said that the sentence of Allen had been confirmed by his field commander, who commuted it to dishonorable discharge, total forfeitures and confinement for life.

Before final action in Reid's case is taken, the entire record of the trial will be reviewed in the branch office of the Judge Advocate General to determine its legal sufficiency, it was explained.

# Georgia Takes Six Minutes

# Jury Frees White Man Of Attacking Girl, 17

Pittsburgh Courier

3-31-45

DECATUR, Ga.—(ANP)—A DeKalb County jury took less than six minutes Friday to acquit Howard Lamar Morgan, a white sailor, of charges that he with two other white youths had criminally assaulted a comely 17-year-old school girl on Christmas Eve last year.

Morgan was indicted in two counties on two counts of rape as well as assault with intent to murder. The State charged that Morgan, Ralph New[illegible] Ralph Goza, after severely beating the young girl's companion, Walter Berry Jr., attacked the girl in DeKalb County, then taking Berry's car, forced the girl to accompany them to a lonely, deserted cabin in the woods of neighboring Gwinnett County, where they took turns in attacking her. Afterward, the indictments charge, they forced the girl to commit sodomy.

**FACE OTHER TRIALS**

The defendants were to be given several trials, Morgan's being scheduled first. Trials of the other two are scheduled for the next term of court in June, the same month all three must face trial in the Gwinnett Superior Court before Judge Clifford Winder.

The youthful victim of the attack identified Morgan as one of her assailants and described how she was forced to get in the back seat of the car while the other two youths threatened her life with knives. Berry told the jury, had been thrown unconscious in a ditch.

Judge James C. [illegible] who presided over the trial, refused to permit newspapermen in the courtroom during the hearing, although consenting to let fifteen "representative" whites and fifteen Negroes to hear the evidence. The jury, in the face of Morgan's admission of guilt, as related by arresting officers, quickly returned the acquittal verdict.

master, co-chairman of the Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor, today pledged the full support of her organization in the campaign to bring the other two rapists before unbiased juries.

4-7-45

The crime occurred on December 24 of last year, when twenty-year-old Walter Berry, Jr, Negro, with his high school girl companion, also Negro, were waylaid by three white men. Berry was severely beaten, the girl was raped and then forced to accompany the men in an automobile to a lonely [illegible] in an adjoining county. All [illegible] of the men raped her and forced her to commit sodomy.

Found on the road the following day, the girl was taken to a hospital where her condition was considered so serious that she remained on the critical list for some days.

4-7-45

Though one of the accused rapists, Howard Lamar Morgan, confessed to committing the crime, it took an all-white DeKalb county jury less than six minutes to acquit him. His two companions still await trial.

In a telegram, Tuesday, to Governor Ellis Arnall of Georgia, Congressman Adam Clayton Powell of New York urged that "every step possible be taken to guarantee that the other two participants in this crime are fully punished." He also stated that the crime is a "blot against the progressive record your administration is making." (See *Soapbox, page 5.*)

4-8-45

Meanwhile the case of Mrs. Recy Taylor continues to win new adherents to its demand for punishment of the six white hoodlums who raped this Alabama mother. An article in this week's *Daily Worker*, by William Patterson, leader in the internationally famous Scottsboro case, says:

"Freedom for the rapists must come to an end. They are raping American democracy, not alone Recy Taylor.

# Confessed Attacker Acquitted

People's Voice

4-7-45

N.Y.

Asserting that the acquittal by a DeKalb county (Georgia) jury of one of three confessed white rapists of a seventeen-year-old Negro girl was a deliberate and cynical flouting of the basic principles of democracy, Miss Henrietta Buck-

# Man Sentenced To Die Denies Attack Charge

Atlanta Daily World

Atlanta, Georgia

Leon Lewis, of 300 Old Wheat Street, N. E. Thursday morning was sentenced to die in the electric chair at Tattnall Prison November 2 for the alleged assault July 7 of a white woman.

Lewis, who was driving a taxi for another man, according to his family, denied the charge in his unsworn statement to the jury.

The all-white jury found him guilty of rape after less than five minutes' deliberation Wednesday. Judge Bond Almand passed sentence on Lewis shortly after court opened Thursday morning.

Lewis told the court that he picked up the white woman and a white soldier after being hailed by them between Forsyth and Cone streets. Lewis said he was ordered to carry them to an Angier Avenue openfield address. When the car in which they were riding reached the woman and the soldier fought and continued to fight after they got out of the car, Lewis stated.

The duo were said to have remained away for about 15 minutes and returned, ordering Lewis to "drive us back to town." The soldier was put out of the car at Houston and Ivy streets, giving Lewis $2.00 and telling him to "take the girl home," the driver stated. Enroute to the white woman's home, she was said to have claimed she missed her pocketbook, asking Lewis if he remembered the place where she and the soldier had just "come from." Lewis told her he did and drove her back to the place that she might look for her pocketbook, he said. There she got out, Lewis stated, and proceeded to look for her pocketbook. While she was out on the ground looking and Lewis was still sitting in the car two policemen came up and asked the woman what she was doing out there. The white woman is said to have told them at first that she was loking for her pocketbook, but about six minutes later changed her statement and charged Lewis with rape. She was said to have been about drunk about the time.

The all-white jury completely ignored Lewis' unsworn testimony and took the testimony of the alleged rape.

Solicitor General E. E. Andrews prosecuted the case. He said he believed the jury returned its verdict after the shortest deliberation on record in a capital offense case in Fulton Superior Court.

# Grand Jury Indicts Two Ex-Policemen

The Memphis World—Memphis, Tennessee

9-7-45

Shelby County Grand Jury Tuesday of this week returned true bills against two former police officers accused of criminal assault on two colored girls. Only one of the girls, however, was listed as prosecutrix.

The indicted men, who until a few days after they were accused by the girls of rape were uniformed officers of the Memphis Police Department, are:

J. W. Torrey, 27, of [illegible] East McKellar; and B. J. Lewis, 26, of 1576 Shadowlawn.

Arrested Friday, August 24th, the ex-officers were held to the state the following day. Each is out on a $5,000 bond.

Attorney General Will Gerber last weekend announced that he would personally prosecute the case in the event the men were indicted. He later discouraged the idea of solicitation of fund for prosecution with the statement:

"I want the public to know that my office has ample funds to investigate and prosecute this case. We are doing everything possible to assemble the facts, and if the Grand Jury indicts we will prosecute these men to the fullest extent of the law.

"Therefore, contributions to some organization to push the matter along will avail nothing.

"There has been no delay since the facts were presented to my office. Commissioner Boyle said he had been working on the case from the very beginning."

9-7-45

The organization referred to was the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In view of the destitute conditions of the families of the two girls accusing the officers and special investigaton into the case by a private attorney, D. B. Crawley, the Memphis NAACP Branch sought funds from its members, it was pointed out by Rev. D. V. Kyle, chairman of the executive committee. Rev. Kyle, in reply to Mr. Gerber, stated that he "did not want it to be said we have no faith in the Attorney General's office prosecution of the case.

"The NAACP felt that the accused former police officers should have been immediately arrested when charged with the crime, and when this was not done the organization took action."

It was further pointed out by the minister that Attorney Crawley was employed to investigate the charge at a fee of $250.00.

9-7-45

"The attorney's fee, additional money for special counsel, should such a need arise and financial help to the families of the two girls is sought by his organization, Rev Kyle continued and added:

"In so far as he knew the Attorney Geenral's office never heretofore given cause for the NAACP to intrest itself in behalf of Memphis Negroes."

The former policemen are accused of having picked up the girls early on the morning of August 2nd in their squad car, taken to a secluded spot on Union Avenue extended and criminally assaulted. One girl charged that she was raped; the other that she was forced to an "Unusual submission."

Both men denied the charge when confronted with the girls several days later. However, they resigned from the police force the following day. August 5th.

47h-1945

Kentucky

7216

# Willis Declines to Halt Execution of Fox Today

Courier-Journal 4-6-45

Frankfort, Ky., April 5 (AP)—Gov. Simeon Willis declined late today to interfere in the execution set for tomorrow of Carl Fox, 18, Negro convicted in a New rape case.

Fox, youngest of six arrested in the case, was described as having the "mental condition of a child of 14" by A. J. Slaughter, a Covington Negro attorney, at a hearing today. 4-6-45

In asking mercy for the youth, Slaughter stressed his age and declared that errors prejudicial to him had occurred during the trial.

**Conviction Upheld.**

Slaughter spoke before a group in the Governor's private office which included Fox's mother, Sophia Fox, and several ministers of his race. The attorney said he was uncertain where the youth's father was.

Assistant Attorney General H. K. Spear, opposing the plea, confined himself to reading parts of the opinion of the Court of Appeals, which unanimously affirmed the conviction. In a brief note announcing his decision, Governor Willis cited the concluding paragraph of the court's ruling: 4-6-45

**Hambrick In Death Cell.**

"On the whole record it is our opinion that the appellant (Fox) had a fair trial, and that the evidence was sufficient to induce and to sustain the verdict. True, the penalty imposed is extreme, but so was the crime."

Sent to a death cell at Eddyville Penitentiary on a similar sentence in the case was Ed Hambrick, 26, whose death penalty was affirmed by the State's highest court, along with that of Fox. 4-6-45

Of the four other Negroes arrested in the case, Henry McCall got 20 years and William Stutson 10 on conviction of aiding and abetting. They already have started serving their sentences. Charges against the other two, Charles Lewis and Joseph Hughes, were dismissed.

**Fox Admits Attempt.**

A petition for the Court of Appeals to reconsider was filed in behalf of Hambrick, automatically delaying his execution, but none was offered for Fox. Slaughter said he did not know why. 4-6-45

Testimony was given at the trials that the Negroes attacked a 16-year-old girl and her soldier escort the night of August 23, 1943, in a Newport park, and that the soldier, after knocking Stutson down, ran to a police station.

Fox admitted he attempted rape, but denied actually committing the crime, naming Hambrick and McCall as guilty of that.

# Hambrick Dies In Electric Chair For Rape of Girl

5-26-45

Eddyville, Ky., May 25 (AP)—Ed Hambrick, 26, Negro, convicted of rape of a 16-year-old Newport white girl, was put to death in the electric chair at 1:10 a.m. today.

Hambrick was electrocuted after Governor Simeon Willis declined to interfere with the execution yesterday. The Governor had asserted that there appeared to be no sufficient reason for interfering with the judgment, or extending the time of its enforcement.

# Rapist Must Die; April Date Set By Appeal's Court

Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky.

3-7-45

Frankfort, Ky., March 7 (AP)—Execution of Carl Fox, 17, one of two Negroes given death sentences in Newport for rape, was set for April 6 by the Court of Appeals today. Ed Hambrick, 26, whose death penalty was affirmed along with that of Fox's last January, was granted time to appeal for reconsideration.

It was stated at the office of Appellate Court Clerk E. E. Hughes that no such motion was made in behalf of Fox before the time expired yesterday, and therefore the court's mandate was issued in his case. Hambrick has until April 6—date for Fox's execution—to file his petition.

# Accused Rapist Must Pay Penalty, High Court Says

Courier-Journal 4-25-45

Frankfort, Ky., April 24 (AP)—The Court of Appeals today reaffirmed its approval of execution of Ed Hambrick, 26, one of four Negroes convicted of rape of a 16-year-old white girl in a Newport park in 1943.

The penalty will be carried out in the electric chair at Eddyville Penitentiary May 25 barring executive clemency or some new court action. 4-24-45

Gov. Simeon Willis refused clemency to Carl Fox, 17, convicted in the same case, and he was executed April 6. The other two convicted went to prison to serve their terms without appeals.

7217

# Convicted Rapist Gets Life Term

The Washington Post

Baltimore, Sept. 30 (AP).—George Galloway, 41-year-old Baltimore Negro, was sentenced to life imprisonment today following his conviction on a charge of raping a young married woman after burglarizing her home.

9/27/45

Judges Edwin T. Dickerson and J. Abner Saylor imposed the sentence in Criminal Court.

Galloway has spent most of his time since 1920 in penal institutions. The judges stated they were not imposing the death penalty because of a bare possibility that the prosecuting witness in the rape case might have mistakenly identified Galloway.

Galloway also was sentenced to a total of 37 years in a number of other cases. Three 10-year terms were imposed for burglaries.

# White Soldiers Given Life On Rape Charge

CAMP SHELBY, Miss., July 11—Camp Shelby officials reported court-martial sentences of life imprisonment for three white enlisted men on a charge of raping a WAC at the Mississippi Ordnance Plant near Flora, Miss., have been approved by military judicial review.

Authorities said that on the night of April 6, 1945, the three soldiers accosted the WAC and took her to a lot by the ordnance plant motor pool where they beat her and each in turn criminally attacked her.

# Negro Given Death For Attacking Woman In Mississippi Home

LAUREL, Miss., Dec. 7—(AP)—Willie McGee, Negro, 30, was under death sentence today after being convicted of criminally attacking a Laurel white woman in her home Nov. 2.

A jury deliberated only two and one-half minutes at the conclusion of the one-day trial here yesterday.

McGee ignored questions by his appointed counsel and by the judge as to whether he had anything to say. He sat trembling and silent during the proceedings. He was calmer, but did not rise or speak when Judge F. Burkitt Collins sentenced him to die in the electric chair Jan. 7, 1946.

Immediately afterwards McGee was taken back to the strong jail in Jackson, Miss., in custody of State Guardsmen armed with rifles, machine guns and tear gas. Guardsmen guarded the courtroom during the trial, but there was no disturbance.

M. W. Boyd, one of the attorneys appointed to represent McGee, said he was "not in position" to say whether an appeal would be taken from the verdict. He said that "under the law my duty ends here unless I am employed further."

* *

THE STATE PRESENTED 13 WITNESSES, including the alleged victim. The courtroom was cleared of spectators for her testimony.

The state testimony was to the effect that McGee broke into the woman's home about 4 a.m. after a night of drinking, gambling and riding about in a truck. The defense offered no witnesses.

Police Chief C. W. Valentine, of Laurel, testified that McGee was arrested in Hattiesburg and made an "oral confession."

Deputy Sheriff T. J. Montgomery also said McGee had made a statement admitting the crime.

The panel was exhausted in selecting jurors and deputies summoned Wiggersby to complete the jury, which consisted of white men.

Earlier in the day another jury found McGee presently sane. His attorneys had asked for a sanity hearing saying he was so nervous they were "unable to get him to talk."

Bessie McGee, mother of the defendant, was the only defense witness at the sanity hearing. She said he had "sat over in the jail at Jackson and studied and worried about this thing until he has just about lost his mind."

The attack allegedly was made by a Negro who forced entry into the woman's home and threatened her with death if she made an outcry. Her husband was asleep in a rear bedroom.

47h-

New Mexico

7219

# NAACP Gets Rape Sentence Reduced

ALMOGORDO, N. M.—The sentence of Melvin Clarence Evans, charged with the rape of a 21 year old woman, was reduced to a 15-20 year term during trial here January 17. The youth who was sentenced originally to 20-25 years for the crime to which he pleaded not guilty, was represented by Attorneys Melvin D. Reuckhaus and Harry D. Robins, retained by the national office of the NAACP.

Following the defendant's first trial, December 9,, 1948, the Almogordo branch of the NAACP obtained release of the 13 year old youth on habeas corpus proceedings, in order to enable him to protect his constitutional rights through adequate representation by coun-

47h-1945

New Jersey

7220

# Employer Rape-Slayer Dies In Trenton Chair

## "God, Please, Wash My Sins Away," Last Words Of Father of Four on Way to Death Cell

TRENTON, N. J.—Arthur DeGroat, 35-year-old gardener and handyman, was put to death Tuesday night in the electric chair at State Prison for the rape-slaying of Mrs. Dorothy B. McReady, 57-year-old Mahwah white widow.

DeGroat, father of four children, entered the death chamber at 8 p. m. and eight minutes later, after five charges of electricity had been sent coursing through his body, he was pronounced dead by the prison physician. DeGroat died saying, "God, please, wash my sins away."

He had been convicted last July 18 of first degree murder by a Bergen County jury and had been sentenced by Judge Herman A. Vanderwart. The slaying had been committed early on the morning of May 1.

The condemned man, whose home was in Mahwah, originally had been sentenced to die during the week of September 2, but the carrying out of the penalty was delayed until the New Jersey State Court of Pardons ruled on his application for a commutation of the death sentence to a life term in prison.

The Pardons Court rejected the application on September 18, after DeGroat had filed with it a statement that the slaying was not premeditated because he was drunk at the time it occurred.

DeGroat, whose electrocution was the first in New Jersey since February 2, 1944, was the first man in recent years to be executed in the State without appealing his conviction to the Court of Errors and Appeals, the State's highest law tribunal. He carried his case directly to the Pardons Court from the Bergen County court. Usual procedure is for application to be made to the Pardons Court after every other means, including the Court of Errors and Appeals, has been applied to in vain.

47h-1945

New York

7221

# Convict Negro Youth In Dubious Rape Case

Daily Worker

Emilio Sanchez, 18, of 494 Claremont Parkway, Bronx, will be sentenced next month for "rape" of 19-year-old Clara Scheweloss, of 1345 Washington Ave., Bronx, last November. He was tried this week in the Bronx County Courthouse before an all-white jury.

The young woman said she was returning near midnight from the YMHA in the neighborhood of Freeman St. and Southern Blvd. when somebody called to her and, a few minutes later, shoved a hard object against her back.

A 200-pound Negro, she said, took her to a roof in the neighborhood of 1516 Washington Ave., where he kept her for an hour. She admitted she made no outcry or attempted to fight him off. She allowed him to escape ahead of her, she said. She followed and told her story to the first person she met on the street.

This person chanced to be Paul Bernstein, 19, of 1487 Washington Ave., whom she said in court she had never met before.

NEIGHBORS

Thornton [illegible] Meacham, Jr., and Thomas Dickens, defense attorneys, brought out in cross-examination that the young woman and Bernstein had lived around the corner from each other for seven years.

It was further brought out in court that she suffered from venereal disease at the time of the alleged attack. Testimony showed her alleged attacker did not suffer any venereal disease. Her husband, a soldier, it was further brought out, was expected home at about the time she complained she had been raped.

Sanchez was arrested on the evening of Nov. 11 in the Fenway theater on Claremont Parkway and taken to the Bathgate Ave. police station. There, the Negro youth swore, he was tortured with lighted cigarettes and clubs and was beaten to force a confession.

The young woman, brought to the station house to identify the youth, was unable to do so at first. She was taken away. Sanchez, according to his sworn testimony, was beaten and tortured in the meantime. She returned in about two hours, he said, when he was protesting his innocence, and said she could identify him by his voice.

He said he signed a prepared confession to keep from being killed.

## IDENTIFIED IN ERROR, FREED OF RAPE, THEFT

N.Y. Times N.Y.

Acting on the motion of Assistant District Attorney John J. Moore, Judge John A. Mullen in General Sessions yesterday dismissed the indictment on which James Blackwell, 29 years old, a Negro, of 2452 Eighth Avenue, wrongly had been accused of a series of Harlem store hold-ups last year. He was mistakenly identified in a manner similar to that by which Bertram M. Campbell, former broker, was imprisoned for forgeries committed by another man.

5-3-45

Blackwell was arrested in June, 1944, after being identified by twelve women as the man who raped and robbed them. They based their identifications on a scar on Blackwell's face.

Detective John Kermath of the West 152d Street Station became impressed with Blackwell's protestation of innocence, however, when he recalled that some time before another man with a scar had been sent to prison from Harlem for a similar offense. He learned from Blackwell that his brother, Roger, also had a scar on the left side of his face.

5-3-45

Last September the detective came across Roger, the former offender, in an upper Eighth Avenue bar. He took him to the station, and summoned the women complainants against his brother. They immediately changed their identifications from James to Roger. Subsequently Roger tried to escape and was shot to death by Kermath.

Last October Detective Kermath told Judge Jonah J. Goldstein in General Sessions about the case and James Blackwell was released from the Tombs in the custody of his lawyer, Mrs. Sarah Speaks, pending further investigation of the case. This ended yesterday with Judge Mullen granting Blackwell his full freedom.

47h-1945

North Carolina

7222

The Nation

IT IS A PLEASURE TO REPORT THAT THE North Carolina Supreme Court has averted a scandal. Last July 14 William DeBerry, an organizer for the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural, and Allied Workers of America, C. I. O., was sentenced to sixty days on the road gang by the state Superior Court, on a charge of having assaulted Louise Johnston, a company-union stooge for the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. The prosecution didn't bother to present any evidence to back the charge. It based its argument on the self-evident facts that William DeBerry was a Negro, that Louise Johnston was white, and that the members of the C. I. O. union called each other "brother" and "sister." That was sufficient for the Superior Court. It did not satisfy the Supreme Court, which on January 4 dismissed the charge. But justice for the Negro in the South is still the exceptional thing. On September 3 six white hoodlums kidnapped and raped Mrs. Recy Taylor, a Negress, at Abbeville, Alabama. One of them, Hugo Wilson, confessed and named the others, but the Henry County grand jury refused to indict. On December 8 Governor Sparks promised to investigate, but he has not done anything thus far. A Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor has been organized, with members in nineteen states, a few white Southerners among them. It is too bad the Negro can't get justice without the aid of "agitators," Northern and otherwise. It gives the South a bad name.

1-20-45 N.Y., N.Y.

# 14 Yr. Old Lad Must Die

Tribune 12-27-45 Savannah, Ga.

Raleigh, N. C., (ANP)—The state supreme court upheld the death sentence imposed on Ernest Brooks Jr., 14-year-old New Hanover county youth, in a decision handed down here Thursday.

Unless the governor intervenes, the youth will die in the gas chamber at Central prison Dec. 28.

Brooks, whose age was listed as 14 or 15, was convicted in the March term of the New Hanover County Superior court under a bill of indictment charging him in two counts with rape upon the person of Mrs. G. V. Parker, white woman of Wilmington, and burglary in breaking and entering the dwelling house then occupied by her in the night with intent to commit this felon.

7223

# DEFENDANT FOUND GUILTY OF RAPE-MURDER OF PANTA LOU LYLES BY TULSA JURY

11-24-45

## Defense Appeals Case—Will Raise Constitutional Questions

## LIFE IN PRISON IS PENALTY

Leroy Benton, whose trial for the murder-rape of Panta Lou Lyles occupied the attention of the district court all last week, was found guilty as charged Saturday night at 9:30, the jury recommending a life sentence.

Attorneys Amos T. Hall and B. C. Franklin, representing the defense, said that a motion for a new trial would be made Monday. "We still think we have an air-tight case," declared Hall in a long distance call to the Black Dispatch Monday.

By Viola Drew

TULSA, Oklahoma, November 16, — A jury was expected to reach a verdict tonight in one of the most sensational murder cases in court annals of Tulsa County when it left the court room of Judge Harry L. S. Halley, after seven o'clock. 11-24-45

As the case neared the close of its fourth day, Dr. C. W. Muehlberger, Phd., Lansing Michigan, laboratory expert for the state of Michigan, teacher at the University of Chicago, and Northwestern University, was the last witness to take the stand for the defense.

For more than an hour Dr. Muehlberger held the attention of the jury and several hundred spectators as he explained methods used in laboratory study of hair and fibre, and in making comparisons. His testimony was introduced to combat that of Oliver H. Duggins, FBI expert brought in by the state.

During the morning session, while Dr. Muehlberger studied the slides, brought in by the FBI, in the office of County Attorney Dixie Gilmer, Benton was placed on the stand by his attorneys Amos Hall and B. C. Franklin.

For the most part, Benton kept his bleakp stare straight ahead, except for an occasional momentary shift toward the jury. With stooped shoulders, the defendant took the witness chair, and began answering questions, directed at him by Attorney Franklin, in a reasonably firm voice. 11-24-45

Benton was purported to have made an oral confession to police officers on June 4 and 5, shortly after he walked into the police station and made inquiries as to why they had been to his home looking for him.

Lawyer Franklin asked, "Were you questioned by many officers?"

Benton: I was questioned by a group on June 4th. They were Tony Benson, Mr. Simms, Chief Roy Hyatt, the police commissioner and I don't know who all else."

Franklin: Where did this take place? 11-24-45

Benton: In Mr. Hyatt's office.

Franklin: What happen when you were being questioned prior to this time?

Benton: Mr. Stege talked to me for about two hours. I heard some noise that sounded like shots, and I said, "What is that?" Mr. Stege told, 'Probably that damned mob again.' I had been told about a mob and I was awfully frightened.

Benton further testified that after having been questioned in the office of Chief of Police Roy Hyatt he was carried to the office of County Attorney Dixie Gilmer, where he was questioned all night.

Franklin: Did you talk to anyone on the phone?

Benton: I did. I had instructed by Mr. Gilmer to have a telephone conversation. The phone rang and a lady said: 'Pat are you all right?' I was told to say 'yes.'

Attorney Franklin then asked Benton to tell the story made of the confession he had made to Detective Sgt. W. N. Robbins, at police headquarters the following morning, and to explain to the jury the condition of the room "Were pictures strung all about showing scenes at the apartment where this homicide was supposed to have happened?"

Benton replied that pictures were strung all over the room.

Franklin: Have you ever seen what those pictures represented before they were shown to you?

Benton: No, I had not. Mr. Robbins told me to study the pictures and tell him what they were all about. He said, 'We want you to tell us all you know about the homicide.' I said 'Mr. Robbin, do you think I'm guilty.?' and he said he did. I heard something that sounded like scuffling and I says, 'Mr. Robbins, what's that?' and he opened the door and yelled, 'Keep them downstairs.'

Franklin: Did you think a mob was there? 11-24-45

Benton: I did. He said that was a mob and that he told me to 'come clean and tell all about it.'

"If I tell you I did and you later find the real killer what would you do?" I asked Mr. Robbins, and he said, 'I'll spend the rest of my life getting you out.'

Lawyer Franklin: Did he say anything about a death weapon?

Benton: I says, 'what if Mr. Gilmer aske me about a death weapon,' and he told me to say I hit her with an iron pipe.

Lawyer Franklin: Then Mr. Simms came in, and later Mr. Gilmer?

Benton: Mr. Gilmer came in and asks, 'LeRoy, I hear you want to make a statement,' and I said I did. He said what did you kill Mrs. Liles with, and I said an iron pipe.

Lawyer Franklin: When you told Gilmer that, you were relying on Robbins' promise? If you had not believed that, you would not have made the confession even if a mob was outside? 11-24-45

Benton: I would not.

County Investigator, Tony E. E. Benson, had testified on Thursday that LeRoy had given him a detailed story of the killing. He further stated in his Thursday testimony that he had told LeRoy to start from midnight on the night of May 14, and tell him where he went, and he said LeRoy told him that he went home, to his room on North Greenwood, a little before midnight and stopped at the room of a friend a little while and then went to his own room and went to bed. After about thirty or forty minutes 'I decided to do some prowling.' I've got up and drank some whiskey and started out.

The defense wanted to know of Investigator Benson if LeRoy had told him why he wanted to prowl.

After a slight pause as if he expected a nod from the judge giving him permission to answer the question, Benson said LeRoy told him he wanted to have intercourse with a woman. He continued his story by relating directions which the defendant is purported to have told him that he took that night, finally leading him to the apartment of the deceased.

He said LeRoy told him that the window shades were up and he saw a man and a woman in there. He decided to go home but after a short distance went back and waited until the couple walked out of the room. 11-24-45

Benson continued his story by saying that LeRoy said he waited until he thought the woman was asleep and he went in. Here, he said he asked LeRoy if he cut the screen and LeRoy said no, it was already cut, and the kitchen window was low enough for him to step inside. He further testified that LeRoy told him that he stood over the bed of the woman and when she acted like she was waking up he struck her with the iron pipe which he is purported to have picked up en route to the apartment some where along the Katy tracks.

After Assistant County Attorney Simms had cross examined Benton, Mrs. Camilla Cook, secretary to the police captain was called to the stand by the defense. She was asked if she had been asked to take a written statement on June 5. She replied: "I haven't taken a statement for the county attorney or his staff in five years.

Attorney Amos Hall, on Thursday, as he opened his argument, gave a brief sketch of the life of the defendant. He explained that LeRoy was educated in Tulsa schools; that he had a sister serving the Wacs. "When LeRoy heard on May 23 that the police were looking for him, he went to the station and asked what they wanted. "Does that sound like the action of a guilty man?" When Benton could not remember just where he was the night of the murder, police told him he would be mobbed and his family hurt if he didn't confess, Hall continued. Then followed frequent questioning finally resulting in day-and-night sessions. 11-24-45

He was always given the alternative of the electric chair or death at the hands of a mob, he emphasized.

On the day before his confession Benton heard noises outside the police station which he took for gunshots. When he, Benton, inquired as to what it was he was told "it must be that damn mob," Hall continued.

Lawyer Hall admitted that the defendant was not mistreated, but was exhausted by constant questioning.

The next day, Hall went on, the stage was set at police headquarters for his confession. There were pictures of the murder scene lying about; LeRoy heard shuffling of feet and loud voices; the police officers with him appeared excited, and ran to the door and said it was 'the mob.'

"A mob? No, just a demonstration to break LeRoy down," Hall declared. It was after this that LeRoy old Sgt. W. N. Robbins, he would confess, but begged Robbins to "help him out" if the 'real killetr' were found later. Then, he said, the officers took LeRoy to Okmulgee, where another session of questioning was held in the jail to get LeRoy to give a so-called voluntary confession. By then LeRoy had repudiated his original confession of the murder.

Hall further explained to the jury that the confession which Investigator Benson claims that LeRoy gave him was a "lie." "That just didn't happen; it was a pure fabrication by Tony Benson," he houted. 11-24-45

W. N. Robbins, Tulsa officer for fifteen years, told conflicting stories in his tetstimony on Thursday during cross examination, relative to conversation which took place between himself and the defendant.

He said he was assigned to talk with LeRoy.

Attorney Frauklin fired questions at him in such rapid successions that he wormed in his seat and kept a constant watch at County Attorney Dixie Gilmore, who signaled him repeatedly how to answer.

Franklin: Did you know Benton before that morning?

Robbins: No.

Franklin: What was the first thing you did that morning?

Robbins: The first thing we did was pass the time of day, and I asked LeRoy about his childhood days, and we talked about the weather.

Franklin: You just had a social visit? 11-24-45

Robbins: No, it wasn't a social visit; it was a matter of business.

Robbins testified that the first thing mentioned relative to the case was mentioned by LeRoy. He said the defendant asked him, "Mr Robbins do you think I am guilty? to which Robbins said he told LeRoy 'yes' he thought he was guilty.

Franklin shot back, "Mr. Robbins, you told him you thought he was guilty without first hearing his side of the story?"

Robbins said he had based his belief on report that other officers had turned in.

He further testified that LeRoy told him that he was looking through the window of the apartment of the deceased and saw a man and woman kissing, but later denied that statement. 11-24-45

Testimony closed late Friday evening, to reconvene at seven o'clock for pleading.

## Sought Information From Police

# WALKS INTO STATION, GETS LIFE FOR 'RAPE'

The Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh Pa.

TULSA—(ANP)—LeRoy Benton, 32, charged with the rape-murder of a young white woman, Mrs. Panta Lou Miles, May 15, was formally sentenced to life imprisonment at McAlester Friday by District Judge Harry L. S. Halley.

The criminally assaulted, murdered body of Mrs. Miles was found early on the morning of May 15 in her apartment after she failed to answer the telephone call of a friend who afterwards notified police.

**NO CLUES** 12-8-45

Tulsa police had no clues which led anywhere and after failure to solve the crime white citizens and newspapers became irate and demanded an arrest. Exhausted of leads, police went through their files. It was there they found that LeRoy Benton had served time on a statutory rape charge.

They went to his room to find him, but Benton was out. When he learned from friends that police had been looking for him, Benton the next day took a few minutes from his job, walked into the station and inquired of the captain what they wanted. At that point Officer Stiege, in charge of the investigation department, walked up, took Benton in a room and began questioning him. For quite some time, testimony showed, he questioned and threatened before he learned what he was being held for. Denied the right to call relatives, friends or counsel, Benton was held several weeks until threats of a mob brought an alleged verbal confession.

**LYNCHING THREAT**

Benton told a jury that while being held in the room, surrounded with pictures displaying scenes of the crime, he heard noises that sounded like gun shots and shuffling of feet and when he inquired "what's that?" he was told "it's that d— mob," and assured him if he would make a "clean breast" of the crime he would be protected from the mob but if not he would be mobbed and his family would be hurt. 12-8-45

Benton wanted to know of the officer doing the questioning if he would get him out of it if the "real killer" showed up. The officer promised Benton he would "spend the rest of my life trying to get you out if such a thing should happen."

Attorneys for the defense in a statement to newspapers said they will carry the case before the Supreme Court.

ROSCOE DUNJEE, EDITOR
The Black Dispatch Oklahoma City
An independent newspaper, not bound by party label; fighting for the political, economic and social freedom of the Negro Oklahoma

7224

# When the Mob Assesses the Penalty

Men most invariably tell the truth in that last moment of their lives when they face God and eternity. The fact that Clifford Thomas Norman, convicted on the charge of raping a white woman at Davis, April 1944, walked to the death chair in the McAlester penitentiary Nov. 9 declaring his innocence, raises the grave question of whether government should ever exact the life of a citizen convicted in the atmosphere of a mob. 11-24-45

Despite what anyone may say, and irrespective of what the court held in this case, the very fact that daily papers in the city where the trial was held, not only reported the presence of a mob and quoted significant statements made by the sheriff respecting his fears because of the conduct and movement of this threatening group of white citizens, it should be evident and obvious to all sincere lovers of justice that not only the jury but the judge who arrived at a decision to assess the death penalty, were influenced by this local morbidity and incipient violence.

And it is upon this constitutional question the Oklahoma Conference of Branches discovered its foundation upon which to stand. Too many citizens—a large portion of them Negroes—are inclined to assume when the jury enters its verdict the innocence or guilt of a defendant is exposed. Slight attention is given to the prevalence of forced confessions, through terrorism and intimidation. God alone knows how many sons of black mothers, who, denied another constitutional guarantee (the period in which to decide upon plea) are hurtled off to death by unconscienable officers whose only thought is to make a record of arrests and convictions. 11-24-45

Prisoners in the custody of the law are guaranteed by the constitution freedom from "cruel and unusual punishment," but everyone knows that when arrested in connection with some alleged crime visited upon a white citizen, the apprehended Negro is at once the subject of third degree cruelties, which include threats of mob violence, beatings by police, refusal to permit the defendant to hold counsel with friends, relatives or an attorney, until some sort of confession has been clubbed, stomped or frightened out of him. All of this sort of inhuman, brutal inquisition is without color of law. Such practices are observed tyrannically with the brazen approach of Governor Murray several years ago when he called a group of Oklahoma City Negroes into his gubernatorial chambers, and after telling them he was definitely going to enforce a segregation ordinance, said, "I don't have the law to do this but I have the power."

A case in point, and one that stands out as does a sore thumb, developed down in Choctaw county prior to the arrest of W. D. Lyons. A Negro youth by the name of Van Bizzell was arrested and charged with the crime for which W. D. Lyons now stands convicted. Bizzell was clubbed and beaten for two days, but despite the inhumanity of his tormentors Bizzell said to the last he did not commit the crime, and told his savage accusers that he would never make the confession they sought to make him utter, if they beat him to death. It takes courage for a frustrated, harassed creature to take such a stand. Few men will do it. We said in this column immediately following the Lyons court hearing, if Judge Chiders, who tried the defendant, had been subjected to similar torture he would likely have confessed he killed Christ, who was crucified two thousand years ago.

Vernie Cheatwood, an investigator for Governor Phillips, was charged by a white hotel clerk in Hugo with saying he beat W. D. Lyons for 14 hours before his confession. School buses were run into the town during the investigation, bringing young and old to a Roman holiday. We recite these facts so that all Americans of good will may see the reason why it is necessary for Negroes to join in a struggle for a fair trial, and that effort must be launched long before the helpless defendant reaches the court room. The Negro who wants to help his accused brother must find his way back to a smoke-filled room, where men crazed with liquor have made a race issue of human behavior, which, if the two persons involved had been of one race, would have received slight notice in the community.. 11-24-45

Under such conditions integrity in indictment is at issue. It should be kept in mind that no defendant in the court room can secure a fair trial if he has been dishonestly indicted. An individual charged with a felony, who if his face were white would be charged only with a misdemeanor, can never secure a fair trial. Too many American citizens overlook this fact.

In the case of Jess Hollins, which the NAACP took to the Supreme Court, it was clearly shown that the prosecuting witness (a white girl) had been associating with Negro youths for months, and it was generally known that the girl and Jess Hollins had a clandestine relationship, the gossip of all of the young people in the Slick neighborhood. But when a relative of the white girl saw the two together the girl yelled "rape." Everyone ,both black and white, knew this to be the truth as was exposed in volumes of testimony adduced at the trial.

But because Jess Hollins was black and the girl was white, the state filed an information against the defendant that every officer of the court knew was false. It is this sort of uphill superhuman struggle Negroes must face when entering a court of law. Jess Hollins is in the penitentiary for life not because he is guilty of a legal felony, but because he violated an unwritten law in the South which says a black man must under no condition whatsoever have sex relationship with white women. That is the whole issue naked and bare, and it is an issue that must be settled in America before we can ever have democracy and brotherhood under the Stars and Stripes.

In order that one may see exposed this viewpoint a little clearer we turn again to the Clifford Thomas Norman case. Norman, as you know, has paid the penalty for the charge alleged against him by the state, and the state pardon and parole board, upon whose hands Norman's blood is stained, reviewed not only the evidence in Norman's case when it refused to recant from the death verdict, but that of other prisoners seeking relief at the hands of the parole board. Would you thing it possible that a board so sternly resolved to take the life of Cliff Thomas Norman charged with rape, would on the same day release another man from the penitentiary charged with the same heinous offense?

If you will read the proceedings of the parole board September 26, 1945, at which time the Oklahoma board of pardons and parole decided Clifford Thomas Norman must die, the record will show that Cecil Richard Gorrell, a white man, sent up from the same county, and for the same offense, was paroled. So there you have the picture. Justice smiles in one instance and in the next moment frowns. The Negro, therefore, must fight for integrity in indictment, a fair trial and impartiality in clemency. 11-24-45

But we wish to devote a moment or two to discussion of the values that accrue to all minority groups through alertness in protecting the constitutional rights of defendants, even though unfortunate citizens may be guilty of the crime charged. Many whites point accusing fingers at Negroes when such support is given. They seek to tell Negroes that it is wrong to offer protection to a black man if it is obvious that this black man is guilty of the crime charged. The answer to this accusation is "Two wrongs do not make right." If a Negro is guilty of violating the law he should be tried and convicted, but irrespective of his color, or how deeply dyed in guilt he may be, every citizen should have a fair and impartial trial.

Let us advert again to the Jess Hollins case. Hollins was arrested at twelve o'clock at night at his home. He was awakened from sleep beside his wife and taken directly to the county jail—not the court house. In the jail, where later he was condemned to electrocution, the constitutional rights were arbitrarily snatched

1. The right to make bond.
2. The constitutional period in which to enter a plea.
3. The right to remain by counsel.
4. The right to see a list of the witnesses to appear against him.
5. The right to face his accuser in an open court room.

The sheriff has arrested Negroes and carried them directly to jail across so long a period most Negroes assume that this action is constitutional. It is not. It is the duty of the arresting officer to present the prisoner to the nearest Justice of the peace and permit the defendant the privilege of making bond. In most cases where the defendant is black and the plaintiff is white the Negro prisoner is immediately following arrest, set upon by the sheriff, state investigators and community thugs, and before the unfortunate man can secure bond or counsel, he has been terrorized into making statements that will later be

Every individual charged with crime, especially if the crime charged is a capital offense, should be given his constitutional right to a cooling off period, and after advice of counsel and fully weighing the charges against him, enter his plea of guilty or not guilty. One could not imagine that such an opportunity has been given a black man who is convicted and condemned to die within less than an hour after his arrest. This is what happened in the Jess Hollins case.

Then again, individuals, even though they may be innocent, do not think clearly and wisely under arrest and in prison. That is why every man, irrespective of his guilt or innocence, when charged with crime needs an attorney of his choice to counsel with him. Jess Hollins was denied this primary right.

How impossible it was for Jess Hollins, an ignorant, illiterate farm youth, to exercise another right that is fundamental in our courts. How could Jess Hollins know he had a right to see the list of witnesses who were to appear against him, and have a sufficient period to subpoena in his defense other persons who could support his cause and testify to the truth as he would have it presented to the court? How could Jess Hollins know that it was his right to face his accuser (not in the jail) in a court of law in the moment he was answering the charges brought against him?

It is a terrible thing to have demoted citizenship status; to be always menaced with the threat of having all constitutional guarantees swept aside. This, however, is the Sword of Damoclese that hangs over the head of every black man who has legal issue with white citizens in courts of law, and many times to halt injustice at one point, clever attorneys must resort to other constitutional denials to win their case in court. 11-24-45

For instance, Jess Hollins' life was saved by resort to an issue unrelated to the crime with which he was charged, but having to do with blanket denial of the right of the 200,000 Negroes in Oklahoma to sit on juries. When the change of venue was taken to Okmulgee county, it was proved to the satisfaction of the United States Supreme Court that thousands of Negroes in Okmulgee county had systematically been denied the right to qualify for jury service. The court remanded the case on this ground alone.

Since the Jess Hollins case, Negroes in almost every county in Oklahoma have been granted the right to serve as jurors. Not in any wise in the measure they should be, but cautious county attorneys have become convinced that they cannot continue to practice outright exclusion of Negroes from juries as a pattern in legal forms. The Criminal Court of Appeals has issued dictum on this subject that has put the fear of God into the hearts of those who would deny this elementary right to black citizens.

It may be clearly seen in this instance that irrespective of the innocence or guilt of Jess Hollins, the NAACP had the right to go into court and demand that he be given a constitutional trial. It should be clear to every black man in this state that if the courts in Okmulgee county could deny Jess Hollins his constitutional rights, the rights of every other black man and woman in Oklahoma could be removed and set aside in the same manner.

The Oklahoma Conference of Branches, NAACP, has no apologies to make to anyone in its defense of Clifford Norman Thomas. In this case we raised two important issues: the trial was held in the atmosphere of a mob, and there was added to this the charge that the penalty assessed was unusual for Oklahoma courts. 11-24-45

## Soldier in Suburban Crime Declared Sane

After doctors in Columbia had pronounced him sane following a month's observation, Lewis C. Gatlin, negro soldier charged with assaulting a white woman and attempting to assault another, has been returned to Charleston.

He was brought back to the city by Sheriff Joseph M. Poulnot, County Jailer Harold Bennett and Special Deputies Marion I. Corby and Joseph A. Thomas to await trial in the next term of the court of general sessions.

It is alleged that Gatlin assaulted a white woman just after she got off of a bus on the Dorchester highway, assaulted another with intent to ravish the next night in North Charleston, and attacked with a knife two negro women in the same vicinity. Later that same night, he is accused of entering John C. Calhoun homes, after which he fled into some nearby woods.

# Death Sentence Given Negro In Rape Case.

## 2 Doomed This Term. Overseas Soldier's Wife Testifies

Lewis C. Gatlin, 19, negro soldier formerly stationed at the Charleston Port of Embarkation, was sentenced yesterday in the court of general sessions to die in the electric chair August 1 for raping a young white woman near the Dorchester road, north of the city, April 1.

In yesterday afternoon's session a jury required only 17 minutes to reach a verdict. A number of state witnesses and two defense witnesses took the stand yesterday morning.

On Wednesday Junius A. Judge, 24, negro, was sentenced to die on August 1 for the murder of Alric A. Gore, bus operator, north of the city. The jury deliberated 21 minutes.

**Court Term Unique**

Judge William H. Grimball, Solicitor Robert McC. Figg, Jr., and W. Lloyd Fleming, clerk of court, reported yesterday that to their knowledge this is the first term of the court of general sessions in Charleston county in which two death sentences were passed in different cases.

Judge Grimball said that in his 20 years as a judge this was the first time he had pronounced two death sentences in different cases in the same term of court. The only term comparable to this one concerning death sentences was in 1928 when Judge E. C. Dennis sentenced four negroes to die in the electric chair for the murder of a Chinese laundryman, Charlie Loy, at his establishment in King street. However, the sentences of Sam Tolbert and [illegible] Pinckney, two of the defendants, were commuted to life imprisonment in January, 1929. The two other defendants were George Palmer and John Brown.

**Continues Mumbling**

When Gatlin was rearraigned yesterday afternoon before Judge Grimball pronounced sentence he continued his incoherent mumbling, completely ignoring court proceedings. When sentence was pronounced he continued his mumblings, unmoved by the sentence. The defendant was led from the court room and carried to the county jail by County Policemen E. J. Bee and D. O. Zorn and Jailer Harold Bennett. The policemen and the jailer quoted Gatlin as saying that he heard the judge sentence him to the electric chair August 1.

At the opening of the trial yesterday morning D. R. Stack, defense counsel, made a motion that the indictment be quashed on the basis of race discrimination. Mr. Stack argued that no members of the negro race were serving on either the grand jury or the petit jury. However, he stated that his motion was "for the record." In answer to a question from Mr. Stack, Mr. Fleming, clerk of court, said that one negro had been selected in the list of jurors but he did not appear.

Judge William H. Grimball said that on legal grounds he was forced to overrule the motion.

**12 Veniremen Rejected**

In the selection of the jury, which took about an hour, the defense rejected nine jurors and the state three.

The woman attacked, a 24-year-old wife of a soldier overseas, was the first to take the stand and in a definite and determined voice she identified Gatlin as her assailant. Soft spoken and with her eyes on the defendant most of the time, she related her experience in which she was dragged into a thicket a short distance from her home in Dorchester Terrace, beaten and raped three times.

She said that about 10:30 o'clock the night of April 3 she got off the bus at the Meeting street extension and the Dorchester road. She said that she proceeded down the railway tracks to walk through a short cut to her home. She testified that as she got to the short cut she heard someone dash out of a thicket nearby and saw a negro soldier running toward the short cut.

**Woman Describes Attack**

In a tearful, hesitant voice she said that the assailant grabbed her and dragged her down the tracks with his hand over her mouth after telling her he was going to attack her. She said that the negro grabbed her by the hair and dragged her backwards into the thicket. "I was fighting like the devil," the witness said. "He began boxing me in the face with his fists and my eyes were soon swollen. Some people passed by and he picked up a stick and threatened to punch my eyes out if I screamed." The witness testified that her assailant also threatened her with a pistol and a large rock. She said that she did not see the pistol.

She testified that the negro jerked a wrist watch off her arm and asked her if she had any money. When she answered in the negative the negro called her a liar, the witness said. She also testified that the negro asked her if she hated negroes. According to the witness it was only after she promised to meet him the next night that her assailant got up and ran. She said that the moon was shining brightly and she could see the negro very clearly.

**Treated Over Two Months**

"I was pretty well banged up when I got home and a neighbor carried me to Stark General hospital". She said that she remained in the hospital for six days and received treatment for two months after she was discharged. It was at police headquarters that the prosecuting witness saw Gatlin again, she said. She was brought to police headquarters in an ambulance and identified Gatlin as her assailant, the police reported.

Solicitor Figg showed the witness some pictures of the vicinity in which the alleged attack took place and she pointed out to the jury where she was walking and where she was attacked. She also identified her broken wristwatch and the clothing worn at the time of the alleged attack.

The witness was of medium size with long, black hair which fell about her shoulders. She was dressed in a two-piece tailored dress with short sleeves. Her eyes were slightly shadowed and a bump, said to be inflicted by her assailant, still remained over her left eye. She sat calmly in the witness chair with her hands folded in her lap.

R. A. Reilly, photographer, identified pictures that he had taken of the prosecuting witness shortly after the alleged attack. The pictures revealed the witness in a badly bruised condition with both of her eyes blackened. She also had cuts on her hands and legs.

Captain Ralph E. Keigen, Gatlin's commanding officer, identified the wristwatch as the one taken from Gatlin's locker after Gatlin had been taken into custody by police.

**Seen by Soldier with Watch**

Private Fred H. White, negro soldier in Gatlin's company, testified that he had seen Gatlin with the watch the day after the alleged attack. He said that he saw Gatlin in a restaurant in Coming street and Gatlin told him that the watch belonged to his girl friend. The witness quoted Gatlin as saying that he had broken the watch when he and his girl friend were playing.

Major R. W. Neale, provost marshal of the port of embarkation, identified the watch as the one turned over to him by Captain Keigen.

Chief Daniel S. Mott and Lieutenant Percy W. Hardwicke, of the county police, also identified the watch. Chief Mott said that on April 3 he and 15 of his men combed the woods on the east side of the dual lane highway near the North Charleston viaduct in search of "a light complected soldier with no hat."

County Policeman R. E. Ramsey testified that he arrested Gatlin at the U. S. O. circle in North Charleston. He said that Gatlin was wet and had nothing to say to the police.

**Believed Feigning Insanity**

Referring to a file folder in his lap, Dr. G. B. Carrigan, psychiatrist of the state hospital in Columbia, said that from his observation, examination and interviews held with Gatlin from April 20 to May 27, the negro was sane. He said that it was the unanimous opinion of the hospital staff that Gatlin was sane. He said that he thought the defendant knew right from wrong, and that in the opinion of the hospital staff Gatlin tried to appear insane. On cross-examination, Dr. Carrigan said that he had received a letter from Gatlin's father stating that Gatlin acted funny when he went home on furlough in December.

While Dr. Carrigan was making this announcement, Gatlin sat in the dock playing childishly with a piece of thread he had taken from the floor. As was true at the arraignment last week the negro appeared completely oblivious of court proceedings. Throughout the trial he mumbled incoherently. As at the arraignment he beat himself in the stomach with his fists and flipped his fingers. When led into the capacity-filled courtroom a number of spectators jumped up and craned their necks to catch a glimpse of the queer-acting defendant.

**Burst Out Talking**

Many times during the trial attention was drawn to the negro when he would burst out talking in resounding tones. The bailiffs were on hand and admonished the defendant a number of times. When court had been recessed for a few minutes a negro army chaplain and Gatlin's mother attempted to talk with the defendant, but he paid them no attention. He chewed gum throughout the trial.

The mumbling defendant wore khaki pants, blue denim shirt and heavy army shoes. His shirt was hanging carelessly out of his trousers and he wore no socks. His pants were rolled almost to his knees. He appeared to weight about 185 pounds.

Macy Gatlin, mother of the defendant, from Jackson, Miss., told the court that her son was 19 years old and had been unbalanced mentally since he was six years old, when he was injured in a wreck. She said that he had come home on furlough in December, but her son did not seem glad to see his family. On the second day of his visit, according to the witness, her son picked up his grip and left, coming back only after she had followed him several blocks and convinced him that his furlough was not over. She said that while she was arguing with her son he knocked her down.

**Letter from Mississippi**

At the direction of Mr. Stack the witness read a letter to the court from a Mrs. Emma Catchings, owner of a plantation in Mississippi. In her letter Mrs. Catchings stated that Gatlin was mentally unbalanced to such an extent that she could never get him to do work on the plantation. When cross-examined by Solicitor Figg the witness said that she had put up no objections when her son was taken into the army.

Chaplain S. R. Bright, negro, of the Port of Embarkation, testified that Gatlin did not begin acting queerly until his mother called on him at the county jail. He said that Gatlin attended church once in a while but he didn't think Gatlin had good common sense or knew right from wrong.

Jailer Bennett stated that he had no trouble with Gatlin until his mother came. "He acted as any ordinary prisoner before his mother came to see him," the jailer explained.

In a very short plea Mr. Stack, quoting from the Bible, pleaded for mercy for his client. Stating that Gatlin might have been crazy while he was under observation in Columbia he said that he thought the hospital authorities made a mistake in judging him sane.

**Called One of Worst Cases**

Solicitor Figg opened his plea by paying tribute to Mr. Stack for his services as court-appointed counsel for Gatlin. He told the jury that the case was the worst case they had ever judged or ever would judge. It is one of the worst in the history of the state, he said. Urging the jury to protect the women of the community the solicitor asked for a verdict of guilty. "To prospective rapists letters of fire on this indictment are the only ones they can understand." He said the defendant was "crazy like a fox."

Members of the jury included: Leon F. Bulwinkle, foreman; John C. Whiting, Jesse S. Haigler, T. Grange Waring, Archie W. Tyndall, Nicholas Margiotta, Thomas A. Cantwell, Harry N. Baker, Charles A. Bimore, Lee M. McLeod, L. R. Cannon and R. L. Henderson.

# James Island

News & Courier

# Negro Gets 25-Year Term

Charleston, S.C.

3-16-45

## Jury Deliberates 26 Minutes on Charge of Attempt to Ravish

Arthur Middleton, 21-year-old James island negro, was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment yesterday in the court of general sessions. The jury, after 26 minutes of deliberation, found him guilty of attempting to ravish a white woman on James island September 7.

Middleton received the sentence with the same expressionless face which he maintained throughout the trial. Since the trial began Wednesday morning he has appeared in a long cut pin stripe blue coat, gray pants with small bottoms and a brown sport shirt.

A high light of the trial came when the defendant took the witness stand yesterday morning. He said that he had not seen the woman September 7 until he was brought into her presence by the police. At the request of Joseph Fromberg, court appointed counsel, the defendant stood up, looked at the prosecuting witness sitting with her husband on the front seat of the court and declared that he had not assaulted her or any other woman.

**Jury out at 6:18 p. m.**

After one defense witness and one state witness testified yesterday afternoon, pleas were made by the state and defense. The jury went out at 6:18 o'clock.

Laura Jackson, aged grandmother of the defendant who claimed she had 59 grandchildren, took the stand in yesterday afternoon's session and testified that the woman who was attacked told her that a soldier was her assailant. In emphatic tones she told the jury that she brought her children up to respect white people.

She said that Middleton was at her house taking a nap the afternoon of the crime. According to the witness, her grandson left her house a few minutes before she did with the explanation that he was going home to fix his car. The county policeman, who arrested Middleton, testified earlier in the trial that the defendant was fixing his car when picked up later that afternoon after the crime had been committed.

3-16-45

**Witness Smiles Constantly**

The aged witness was a very talkative woman. She appeared on the stand wearing an apron. She constantly smiled as if she were amused at the whole proceeding. Many times she repeated that she was telling the truth as she knew that she had to meet her Maker soon.

As a state witness, D. R. Stack, court stenographer, took the stand and verified testimony given in the September term of court when a mistrial in the Middleton case was ordered. While taking down the proceedings in short hand he told the court that in the September term of court Middleton said that he ordinarily called Olin H. Hartley, a resident of James Island, "Olin."

The prosecuting witness testified that when Middleton first came to her house on the day of the crime he asked her if she knew whether "Olin" was home or not. Hartley, a white man, resided a short distance from the woman's house. When questioned by Solicitor Robert McC. Figg, Jr. yesterday morning Middleton said that he called Hartley "Mr. Olin".

**No One Seen in Yard**

W. H. Townsend, on whose farm the woman resided at the time of the crime, said that he did not see anyone pass through his yard the day of the crime. Two of his laborers testified that they had seen Middleton pass through the yard. Another witness quoted Mr. Townsend as saying that he saw Alex Gilliard, another James Island negro, pass through his yard.

In a brief plea to the jury, A. L. Hamer, court appointed attorney, said that he and Mr. Fromberg had exerted every effort to find the facts concerning the crime. He questioned the fact that police did not examine the body of the defendant, who according to testimony was kicked in the stomach by the woman. He emphasized that the prosecuting witness was the only person who identified the defendant as her assailant. "There is no corroborating evidence to back her testimony," he concluded.

In an hour and 35 minute plea during which he quoted the Bible often, Mr. Fromberg told the jurors that each was himself a judge in the case and challenged them to let their decision speak the truth.

"Each of you is a judge individually and should let your verdict speak the truth, not being swayed by the decision of the others. The law doesn't expect that. Let your verdict satisfy your conscience."

**Equal Standards of Justice**

Pointing to the defendant Mr. Fromberg told the jurors that they must apply the same standards of justice to "this humble born negro" that they would apply to themselves or to a white man. He said that regardless of race, color or creed a man comes into court clothed in innocence until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. In conclusion he said that Middleton was no more guilty than he was.

In an hour and four minutes, Solicitor Figg reviewed the case and stated that he thought the evidence would prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Middleton was guilty. He told the jury that they must protect women in the future by seeing that the punishment fits the crime.

"In judging this case you must not consider how lucky this woman was in escaping this man but you must look into the future and consider the women who might not be so lucky. You must lay down the rule. Judge him by his standard of justice. Was he merciful when he attacked this woman? Judge him by his own standards and he can't complain."

Before charging the jury, Judge Shepard K. Nash commended Mr. Hamer and Mr. Fromberg for their efforts in defending Middleton. He said that they had performed their duty "willingly, ably, cheerfully and with zeal."

**Others are Sentenced**

Prior to adjournment for the term several defendants whose sentences had been deferred were sentenced.

Among those sentenced were Willie Walker, Willie Dixson and Leroy White, three negroes charged with entering the Van Smith Building Materials company and attempting to break the safe. Walker and Dixson were also charged with entering Andrew's grocery, 20 Lucas street, and taking $7,500 in bonds and cash from the safe. Walker and Dixson pleaded guilty to the charges. White had a jury trial Tuesday.

Walker was sentenced to 10 years on each charge to run concurrently. Dixson was sentenced to seven years on each charge to run concurrently. White was given 10 years.

Arthur Waring, another negro, got five years, having been involved in the robbery of Andrew's grocery. His lawyer, Edward K. Pritchard, told the judge that Waring had served as the lookout and did not enter the store. He reviewed the negro's police record and pointed out that this was his first serious crime.

Alonzo Thomas, William Henry Rodgers and Tom Mims, negro trio convicted of robbery Tuesday, got four years each. The men were charged with attacking Eugene Gilliam, negro, and taking $66 from him.

At the recommendation of Solicitor Figg sentence was reserved on Herman Lee, who pleaded guilty last week to taking over $500 from the Railway Express agency while working there as a truck driver.

**C. I. O. Agent's Wife Appears**

In yesterday morning's session Mrs. E. E. Williams, who lived at the Townsend residence when the crime was committed, appeared as a new witness for the defense. At the time of the crime her husband was port agent here for the National Maritime Union (C. I. O.) She said that she saw the woman come running toward the Townsend residence about 4 o'clock in the afternoon of September 7.

She said that the woman was in an excited condition and quoted her as saying that a short stocky man in a soldier's uniform had assaulted her. She said that the woman told her the man had a gun and wouldn't let her out of the house. She explained that there had been some foxes in the neighborhood at that time.

In yesterday afternoon's session the Jackson woman testified that Mrs. Williams had invited her over to have tea on many occasions. When asked by the solicitor if Mrs. Williams visited her the Jackson woman said that Mrs. Williams had called on her many times.

Mrs. Williams said that she "thought" she was the first one to see the woman following the assault. She said that the woman identified Middleton from a distance of 30 or 40 feet. Earlier in the questioning the witness said that she "didn't remember" whether she had communicated with Mr. Pritchard, counsel Middleton at the September trial, or whether he had communicated with her. Following close questioning by Solicitor Figg she said that she had volunteered a statement for Mr. Pritchard.

**Came from Philadelphia**

She told the court that she had come down from Philadelphia, where she now lives, at her own expense to testify. Solicitor Figg was careful in his questioning to get her to say that her husband was connected with the C. I. O. and not the American Federation of Labor.

Alexander Gilliard, Jr., testified that he was picked up that night by the police as a suspect and his father said that the police had searched his house that afternoon but found no one.

Middleton said that he had not worked that day as he missed the bus. According to the defendant he went to his grandmother's house that afternoon and went to sleep, not waking up until he heard the radio announce that it was "quarter to four."

He said that he then went back to sleep and later went to another house to get a pump to fix a flat tire on his car.

At this time Mr. Fromberg made a motion for a directed verdict on the grounds that the state had failed to make a case beyond a reasonable doubt. The motion was overruled by Judge Nash, who stated that it was a case for the jury. Mr. Fromberg then made a motion that the judge direct the jury to bring in a verdict of not guilty. This also was overruled.

Late yesterday morning session the jury went to James Island and inspected the section in which the assault took place.

# Mental Examination Ordered for Soldier Held Here for Rape

News & Courier

Lewis C. Gatlin, negro soldier being held by county police on five charges including rape and attempted rape, was transferred to the state hospital at Columbia Saturday for a month's observation, it was announced by police yesterday.

Gatlin, charged with raping one white woman, attempting to rape another, and entering a house and assaulting two negro women, was removed to Columbia on an order signed by Circuit Judge William H. Grimball at the request of Solicitor Robert McC. Figg, Jr. County Jailer Harold L. Bennett, Joe Thomas and Thomas J. McMahon accompanied the negro to the hospital.

4-24-45

According to police, Mr. Bennett reported that the prisoner had been acting queerly lately, and refused to eat. Sheriff Joseph M. Poulnot said it was best for the negro to undergo observation for a 10-day period.

South Carolina

On the night of April 3, Gatlin was arrested by county police in the North Charleston area following two days of investigation concerning a negro soldier who was reported to have attacked several women. He was caught about two hours after a resident of the John C. Calhoun homes reported to police that the soldier had entered her house.

# Negro Gets Death Sentence For Attempt to Rape

News and Courier

11-1-45

Greenville, Oct. 31—(AP); George Carter, 29-year-old negro, today was convicted on a charge of assault with intent to ravish on a 62-year-old white woman of Upper Greenville county and sentenced to die in the electric chair of South Carolina's state prison.

11-1-45

Judge J. Henry Johnson, of Allendale, who pronounced sentence in general sessions court here, set December 14 as the execution date.

Testimony at the trial was to the effect that the attack took place while Carter was a trusty on a county chaingang, where he was serving a 40-year sentence on a previous conviction of assault with intent to ravish.

Charleston, S.C.

7226

# Bethune Man Given 10-Year Sentence

Camden, July 2.—Special. Shelton Gainey, of Bethune, charged with a serious statutory offense against a 14-year-old girl, changed his plea of not guilty to one of guilty of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature in criminal court here Thursday and was sentenced by Judge Bellinger to serve 10 years in the state penitentiary. Gainey is 40 years old.

Leroy Weathers, charged with assault and battery with intent to kill, entered a plea of guilty, and was given a three-year sentence. The court, however, stipulated that after one year in prison, Weathers would be admitted to probation for two years. Weathers stabbed a companion following an altercation in the Roxy cafe several months ago.

Mose and Andrew Jackson, charged with assault and battery with a deadly weapon, pleaded not guilty but were found guilty following a jury trial. They were given two years each prison sentences and placed on probation for four years. A plea for a new trial was denied.

# To Probe White Insurance Agent's Assault Attempt

Savannah Tribune
Savannah, Ga.

COLUMBIA, S. C.—(ANP)—The State Conference of NAACP was probing into reports of an attempted criminal assault on a 15-year old school girl by a white insurance agent last week, James M. Hinton, state president, said Tusday.

The alleged attempt at rape, Mr. Hinton said, took place Tuesday of last week, and involved an agent for the Capital Life Insurance company.

It is alleged that the agent, known as Fallon, went to the young woman's home to collect a premium and finding no adults there, it is said that he made overtures to the 15year old girl, stating that he "wanted to test her."

When she fought him off, he became frighened and placed 50 cents on the table, saying that is for you. Then he left the house.

When her mother came home the girl told her what had happened. The mother went to the office of the company to report the incident and while there the agent walked in. It is said that he offered the mother $5 if she said nothing about the matter. She refused the bribe.

9-9-45

## No Action Taken in Attack Case in S.C.

Baltimore, Md.

COLUMBIA, S.C.—(ANP)—No action was taken last week in the alleged attempted assault of a 15-year-old school girl by a white insurance agent.

Although city police were said to have entered the case, no arrest was made and no answer was received from the insurance company for which the agent worked.

## Girl, 16, Killed; White Suspect Free

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

CONWAY, S.C. (ANP) — A white man suspected of assaulting and then killing a 16-year-old high school girl, remained free up to Sept. 18, three weeks after the incident.

9-29-45

The girl, a member of the Carter family at Pine Island, 14 miles from here, left home to make a purchase at a store, was stopped by a married sister en route home and then disappeared.

Late that afternoon, a searching party led by her father found the girl's body in a roadside ditch. A family on the island is said to have permitted a white insurance agent to wash blood stains from his hands the afternoon the girl was assaulted and murdered.

## School Girl Raped, Murdered

Savannah (Ga.) Tribune
9-22-45

Conway, S. C. (ANP)—A white man suspected of raping and then killing a 16-year-old high school girl, remained free, it was learned here Tuesday, three weeks after the incident.

The girl, a member of the Carter family at Pine Island, 14 miles from here and six miles inland from Myrtle Beach. left home to make a purchase at a store, stopped by a married sister's enroute home and then disappeared. Late that afternoon, a searching party led by her father came upon the violated body with its head resting in a roadside ditch.

The numerous reports on the slaying, reports which are spread over the entire lower section of the state, agree on essential details. A family living on the island is said to have permitted a white insurance agent who worked the territory to wash blood stains from his hands the afternoon the girl was raped and murdered. The agent said he had cut his hand on a glass in his car.

9-27-45

Sensational interest in the case developed during the week when county officials arrested the girl's father and an uncle in connection with the death. While no official announcement of charges against the men have been made, it is believed the arrests may have been made for the reason that the father, failing to get county action after repeated requests, had announced he was going to seek vengeance upon the agent if he ever saw him.

County law officers say they are investigating the girl's death but have few clues to work on. It is not known whether charges against the agent, made by residents on the island, are being investigated.

## Charge Plot To Conceal Facts In Murder of Girl, 16

The New York Amsterdam News

**Persistent Reporter Gets Credit For Cracking Case; Child's Jaw, Neck Broken**

New York, New York

CONWAY, S. C. (ANP)—A plan to conceal facts behind the raping and killing of 16-year-old Lila Bell Carter, of Pine Island" by listing "drowning" as the cause of her death on August 15, was smashed Monday of this week when a persistent reporter finally cracked the case open.

10-13-45

Officials had variously denied the rape-murder charge during efforts to verify charges of the girl's relatives and leaders here that she had been crimnally assaulted, allegedly by a white insurance agent who washed blood from his hands and person about the time she is believed to have met death. Monday, from unimpeachable sources which must be guarded for the present, a story more brutal than was at first suspected, broke as to her death.

**Jaw and Neck Broken**

The left jaw and neck of the girl were broken, it was learned upon inspecting her body, the fact being sufficient to cause death. Struck a powerful blow by her assailant, apparently for the purpose of forcing her into submission, she was then ravished, then dragged several feet away and her head placed downward in a pool of water. There were patches of blood on her clothing and a semen discharge within her person as well as on the underside of her clothing. The young woman was virginal.

Traced some four hours after she had gone to a store to purchase rice for supper, the girl's body was discovered by her father and neighbors who had joined in the search. Told for better than two weeks the guilty man would be apprehended, the father is said to have vowed to take vengeance out on the white man commonly suspected. For this threat he has been jailed by county officers who seem unable to question even the man suspected.

## State Probe In S.C. Rape Case Demanded by NAACP

COLUMBIA, S. C.—(ANP)—A state investigation into the rape and death of 16-year-old Lila Bell Carter of Pine island on August 15 was asked by the state conference of NAACP Wednesday.

James M. Hinton, state NAACP president requested Gov. Ransome J. Williams to investigate circumstances surrounding her death after county officers have failed in two months to dispose of it.

Miss Carter, a high school student, was first reported as having died as a result of drowning but a newspaper reporter has since dug up facts proving the girl was criminally assaulted and had both her left jaw and neck broken by her assailant, believed to have been a white insurance agent neighbors say washed blood from his hands and person the afternoon the girl's body was found with the head placed face down in a pool of water.

## Dorchester Man Held Without Bond On Rape Charge

News and Courier
Charleston, S.C.

Summerville, Oct. 31.—Special: Otto Marchant, of near Rosinville and 77 Line street, Charleston, tonight was bound over without bond to the next term of general sessions court in Dorchester to face charges of statutory rape of a teen-aged girl.

A preliminary hearing in the case was held tonight by Magistrate T. J. Wright in Summerville. The case may be tried at the special term of court in December, according to Sheriff Herbert H. Jessen. If there is not time for it then, it will come up in April.

The girl testified at the hearing that the assaults began in June or July, 1944, when she was 12 years old, Sheriff Jessen said. She became 14 on September 30. The girl told the officers Marchant threatened her with a knife and said he would kill himself and her if she ever told of their relations. Sheriff Jessen said the youngster described an incident four or five weeks ago when members of the family were away and Marchant refused to take her to her grandmother's. He pulled her inside the door of the home near Rosinville, she said, and held a pillow over her face to stifle her screams.

11-1-45

Testimony, Sheriff Jessen said, was that the asaults took place "numerous times", any time the man and the girl were left alone at home. The girl fearing to be at his mercy, broke down recently and told the whole story.

The case is of such a serious nature, the sheriff said, that both he and the magistrate had to be sure the testimony was absolutely truthful. For that purpose the hearing was held.

11-1-45

Marchant was arrested in Charleston last night with a warrant issued by Sheriff Jessen. Dorchester officers took him to the county jail in St. George today. Marchant recently moved from near Rosinville to the Charleston address.

7231

7231

7229

[redacted]

Memphis, Tenn. World
11-3-45

ATTORNEY A. A. LATTING GETS ACQUITTAL IN ATTACK CASE—In an atmosphere singularly free from race feeling, Atty. A.A. Latting, young Memphis lawyer won an acquittal for Leotha Palmer, 31-year-old Marion, Ark., man who had been charged with assault and battery with intent to commit rape upon a young white woman shortly after midnight of August 17th.

A jury in the first divisioin of the Criminal Court, after debating the case for about five hours, returned a verdict of not guilty. More than a half dozen witnesses testified in behalf of the defendant, and his whereabouts from the time he left work earlier in the night until after the time of the reported assault, were accounted for.

It was the first time in many years that a Negro lawyer had served as chief counsel in a case of this kind.

Attorney Wallace Lopez, white, assisted Lawyer Latting in the case. 11-2-45

Two veniremen, prior to the actual trial, dismissed themselves from the panel. One said that he could not be impartial toward a Negro in such a case. The other added that he would be prejudice toward any man, Negro or white accused of rape or attempted rape.

The woman told the court that he was walking to a bus station for an out-of-town trip when a Negro seized her in the vicinity of Orleans and Linden. She stated further that she was dragged to a vacant lot by the man, who attempted criminal assault but fled when a colored taxicab driver threw his spotlight on them.

Palmer said that he was placed in a police lineup at headquarters with four other Negro men, and that the woman identified him because he came nearer fitting the description of her attacker. However it was pointed out by the defense attorneys that Palmer, from shortly after the time he left his work at a garage on Union Avenue around eight o'clock, was in the presence of friends with whom he made a round at several night spots. Witnesses corroborated his testimony.

The accused man who is the father of four children, lives with his wife at 762 East Moreland. He brought his family to Memphis only recently to engage in war work.

Attempted rape is statutory offense with full penalty ranging from not less than ten years, and not more than twenty-one years.

## Negro Given Sentence Of Life In Attack Case

Chattanooga Times

CHATTANOOGA, Nov. 22—(AP)—Found guilty by a Hamilton County Criminal Court jury of charges of raping a young white woman while holding her male companion at bay with a knife, Joe Barkley, 27 year old Negro, has been sentenced to life imprisonment in the state penitentiary.

The jury deliberated 30 minutes last night after a one day trial. Judge Frank Darwin passed the sentence.

Representing Barkley were two Negro attorneys, R. H. Craig of Chattanooga, and Z. Alexander Looby of Nashville. Veteran court officials said it was the first time in their memory a Negro had been tried here on a capital offense with members of his own race as counsel. 11-22-45

## Tenn. Jurors Gets Life in Assault Case

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Joe Barkley, 27, was found guilty in Hamilton Circuit Court Nov. 21 of raping a white girl and was given a life sentence in the State Penitentiary.

For the first time in the history of Hamilton County, colored attorneys represented a defendant in a major case. They were Z. Alexander Looby of Nashville, and R. H. Craig of Chattanooga.

Jurors hearing the case were all white.

Notice of appeal was filed by the attorneys for Barkley.

FAMILY TESTIFIES

Barkley testified in his own defense that he was home the entire evening of Sept. 3, the night of the alleged attack. His wife and members of his family testified that he had spent the entire night at his home.

However, James E. Farmer, white, ex-soldier, said that he was the companion of the young woman in the case. He charged Barkley approached a car in which the couple was parked, drew a gun on him and held him away while he attacked the young woman.

47h-1945

Texas

7227

## Austin Talking

# ape Charge Reduced; Negro Gets One Year

BY JANE EVANS
(Informer Staff Correspondent)

AUSTIN, Texas.—Austin's colored citizens were saying that "times ain't quite changing in Dixie" and they were talking about the final verdict handed down by a white jury in District Judge J. D. Moore's court in the case of an Austin Negro, Eddie Lincecum, originally charged with "raping" a 17-year old white girl, Mrs. Vrada Belle Blaine.

Lincecum was given a years imprisonment on a reduced charge of "aggravated assault" in the jury verdict which his Negro attorneys Kenneth Lamkin and Charlie Greenly, pronounced as being "satisfactory." In the old days, however, any Negro charged with "rape" was convicted by the color of his skin and on the way to the graveyard.

**No "Mob Fever"**

As a Southern white woman, I covered the case of the State of Texas vs Eddie Lincecum. Attorneys Lamkin and Greenly agree with me that Judge Moore, the prosecution and the jury carefully refrained from any hysteria or racial prejudice. Nor was there any mob fever in the capital city of our state when the white girl originally charged the Negro with "rape."

Attorney Greenly questioned prospective jurors who might be prejudiced. He was the only one who mentioned the question of race during the trial. Greenly asked each juror if he would be able to give a Negro a fair trial and if he had ever been represented in any legal matter by District Attorney Beauton Coopwood or Assistant District Attorney Joe Cocke.

Carl Biehle, farmer from the Garfield community asked to be excused on the grounds that he had known the defendant and his family for many years. Another prospective juror, William E. Keys, Associated Press staff writer, was dismissed after he had stated that he was a personal friend of Prosecutor Coopwood.

In his instructions to the jury, Judge Moore, substituting for Judge Harris Gardner, suggested that "the state had failed to prove a felony."

He paid high tribute to the two Negro lawyers.

"These gentlemen," he said "have presented this case as ably as any other members of the legal profession would have done. None of their actions have reflected upon this court, and they have conducted themselves like true officers of the court." Then the jury retired and threw the rape charge out the window.

"The law was followed to the letter," said Attorneys Lamkin and Greenly after the verdict had been handed down with no appeal being taken. "Judge Moore is a fine specimen of a Southern magistrate. We are grateful to him and to the white citizens of Austin for following law and not prejudice."

# Man Charged With Rape Is Pardoned

AUSTIN.—Eddie Lincecum, who was charged with raping a 17-year-old white girl, Mrs. Vrada Belle Blaine and was given a year's imprisonment on a reduced charge, has been pardoned from jail after serving three and one half months on the sentence.

This case attracted county and state wide attention. It was significant to note that here was a Negro being represented by another Negro Atty. Kenneth Lamkin, who served as chief counsel in the case. In the old days, any Negro charged with rape was convicted by the color of his skin and was on his way to the graveyard. Judge Moore followed law and not prejudice.

## Texan to be electrocuted for raping 16-year old

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.—Receiving the first death penalty given here for rape in 20 years, Harold Lee Palm, 31, will die in the electric chair for allegedly attacking a 16-year-old girl, it was reported this week.

# Soldier Executed As Clemency Denied; Akins Awaits Death October 7

SAN ANTONIO — The Appeals of the San Antonio and Philadelphia branches of the NAACP to the Board of Pardons and Paroles at Austin, asking for clemency for two men, condemned to die in the electric chair, were of no avail. Pvt. Joseph W. Oglesby, 24, Philadelphia, Pa., charged with rape of a white woman in Pecos, Texas, went to the chair at midnight Friday, August 31, and L. C. Akins, charged with the murder of a white police officer in Dallas is scheduled to die October 7.

**November 2, 1944, time of the charge, Pvt. Oglesby was stationed at Pyote Army Air Field near Pecos, Texas. After being placed in civilian custody at Pecos, through the Public Relations branch of Pyote Field, a district court jury found him guilty of criminally attacking the woman. Oglesby was given the death sentence December 18, 1944. The verdict of guilt was returned after only 17 minutes deliberation.**

The NAACP sent a continuous stream of telegrams, night letters, and letters and even an appeal for a 30-day stay to the Governor and Board of Pardons and Paroles, but all attempts to save the life of this soldier, through the courts, were futile. The last telegram pleading for the life was sent on the eve of Oglesby's electrocution. There were no replys whatsoever to any of these messages.

With O. E. Fitzgerald as president, the San Antonio branch NAACP communicated constantly with Mrs. Fannie Stoker, mother of the soldier, who lives in Philadelphia. Mrs. Stoker and the NAACP branch in Philadelphia sent several appeals to Austin for the life of her son, but she received a telegram from the board bluntly telling her the appeal had been denied.

Two other men, one white, the other a Mexican, were in the death row with Oglesby and charged with the same offense, but their sentences were commuted to life in prison. The white man, Klander, was charged with raping a fourteen-year-old girl, and the Mexican, Jose Rocha, was charged with raping a thirteen-year-old girl, who was his relative.

**Akins In Death Row**

The other man, L. C. Akins, charged with the murder of the Dallas police officer, was sentenced to die Friday, September 7, but was given a 30-day stay by Governor Stephenson.

**According to records, on the evening of September 15, 1941 Akins was boarding a bus for home when he was caught by his clothes and pulled back by L. V. Morris, a police officer, who was off duty and in plain clothes. The officer's wife was with him and he became infuriated when Akins attempted to board the bus ahead of them. An argument ensued, during which the officer pulled his gun and shot Akins. Akins took the gun from the officer, shot him and walked one block to police headquarters and told them the story.**

In March, Akins appealed to the Supreme Court. In his petition he cited the fact that no Negro was on the jury which indicted him. The trial was reopened with one Negro appointed juror, an aged man with a limited education. Akins was then reindicted and at this trial the jury assessed the death penalty.

Akins has a wife whose legs have been amputated, a boy of five, and an aged mother who states that this is the first time he has been involved in serious trouble.

47h-1945

Virginia

7230

## ...prieve Denied
## ...Pardon Board
## ...Rape Sentence

...State Board of Pardons re-...ed yesterday to grant a re-...ve to Lonnie Pearson alias ...mes Pearson, Negro, of Ports-...outh, who was sentenced April ... to death by electrocution for ...pe and robbery of the young ...other of two children on Feb-...ary 5 in her home near Hodges ...rry.

The death sentence will be ex-...uted Friday, August 3, at the ...ate Penitentiary.

Judge A. B. Carney of Norfolk ...unty Circuit Court, where the ...se was tried on May 5, over-...uled a motion for a new trial. An ...peal was noted by State Senator ...M. Hillard, appointed by the ...urt to defend Pearson, and a ...ay of execution for 60 days was ...anted by Judge Carney, who set ...he date as August 3.

## Life Sentence
## Is Extended

DANVILLE, Aug. 10—A man facing a life-term in the penitentiary had another six months added to it today, also a fine of $100 in addition to being sent to the September grand jury.

He was Vander Lee Gibson, Negro, under life term for criminally attacking a white woman in jail, and who sensationally came within an ace of escaping jail last week. The extra six months as well as the fine were for assaulting S. B. Kirks, jailer, while the grand jury count was for attempting to escape jail.

Others involved in the alleged jail delivery plot were James Bolden ... for the grand jury for felonious assault on the jailer and given six months for attempting escape; Curtis King was sentenced to six months, fined $100 and held for the grand jury, while Winston Ford was given six months and fined $25 and given another 30 days for his escape effort.

All of those proceeded against were Negroes.

## Death Decreed For Boat Cook In Rape Case

Jack Lester Barnes, 24, Negro, of Norfolk, was sentenced yesterday to hang for the rape of a 58-year-old white woman passenger on the Washington-bound Norfolk steamboat Meteor.

Barnes, took on the boat, was convicted in Prince Georges Circuit Court November 6 after a jury-waived trial.

In passing sentence, Judge Charles C. Marbury, who heard the case with Judge John B. Gray, jr., said the case should be carried to the State Court of Appeals and even to the United States Supreme Court. Opposing counsel had argued three hours questioning jurisdiction of Maryland or Virginia over crimes committed on the Potomac.

The case raises a new question, Marbury said, "which should be passed on by the highest courts and it will be well if that is the case."

Attorneys J. F. Lillard and Jerrold Powers, court appointed counsel for Barnes, argued that a compact between the two States, made March 28, 1785 at Mount Vernon under George Washington's leadership, is still valid.

The compact provides that each State shall try its own citizens for crimes committed on the Potomac, or in the case of a non-resident, the home State of the person injured shall take jurisdiction.

State's Attorney A. Gwynn Bowie, who claims the compact has been long invalid, conceded that the attacked woman is a Virginia citizen, while Barnes also claims citizenship in that State.

Bowie said that Virginia has never questioned the jurisdiction of Maryland over the Potomac, the boundary dispute having given Maryland sovereignty over the entire Potomac to the Virginia shore.

After overruling the defense motion for a new trial on the jurisdiction dispute, Marbury told Barnes that the court had appointed "two of the ablest members of this bar" for his defense, and he described the crime as "the most shocking and heinous criminal action that has come before this court."

Barnes will be held in solitary confinement at Maryland State Penitentiary until date of the hanging is set by the Governor. Powers and Lillad immediately filed notice of appeal.

## Va. Rapist Gets Death Sentence

Portsmouth, Va., Nov. 24 (AP).—In less than a week after ascending the bench on the Circuit Court of Norfolk County, Judge Edward L. Oast sentenced a defendant to die in the State electric chair at Richmond.

Andrew Jackson Holloman, 31, of South Norfolk, charged with the rape of a 19-year-old South Norfolk girl on the night of August 24, was sentenced yesterday afternoon to die January 11. The defendant waived a trial by jury and was heard by the court after entering a plea of "not guilty." Commonwealth's Attorney A. C. Lynch stated that a signed confession had been obtained from Holloman admitting the crime.

The plaintiff testified that she left a streetcar in South Norfolk at 12:40 a. m. on her way home from work in Norfolk and the defendant accosted her. She said she ran across Liberty st. to a church yard near Wellington, screaming, in the hope that she would be heard. She said the defendant caught her and then dragged her three blocks along Wellington st. to a trailroad crossing, where he attacked her, and then took her to a deserted field where she was attacked for the third time.

The plaintiff further testified that shortly before 3 a. m. she was forced to accompany the defendant to his home on threat of being stabbed unless she spent the night there. She said that when they reached the house she broke away and hailed a passing cab operated by A. B. Parker, who took her to the police station.

47h-1945

# Man Convicted In Rape Case Given 18 Years

Convicted on one charge of raping a 36-year-old waitress employed by the Hot Shoppe in Alexandria, March 10, Alfred Melton, 36, Negro, of 911 N. Alfred st., Alexandria, yesterday was sentenced to 18 years in Virginia State Penitentiary by Judge William P. Woolls in Alexandria Corporation Court.

Discharged from the Navy earlier this year after serving in the Pacific, Melton was indicted on May 14 by a Corporation Court grand jury after his case had been given a preliminary hearing in Alexandria Civil and Police Court. The prosecution yesterday was conducted by Commonwealth's Attorney Albert W. Bryan, with Hannon Edwards Norris named as attorney for the Negro by the court.

Melton was not called to the stand in the five-hour trial, in which the white woman definitely identified him as the man who had dragged her into a vacant lot in the 600 block of N. Washington st. shortly after midnight, March 10, as she was going home from work, robbed her of $5 and criminally attacked her.

The Negro was also identified by two white women, Mrs. Mary Watt, 63, and Mrs. Alice Knox, 46, both of the 1300 block of the Mount Vernon blvd., Alexandria, as their assailant when both were knocked down and robbed in the vicinity of the Hot Shoppe at different times on the night of March 10. Mrs. Knox said she was dragged from the boulevard near the circle at the end of Washington st. at about 9:30 p. m. when her pocketbook was stolen, and Mrs. Watt said she was assaulted and robbed at 10:45 p. m.

Alexandria police, including Detective Sergt. James W. Baber and Detective Russell Greenwalt, arrested Melton at North Washington and Madison sts. the night of March 12 at the intersection where Mrs. Watt had been robbed. The Negro maintained his innocence throughout the proceedings in the two courts. By coincidence he was indicted by the grand jury in a separate robbery charge on the morning preceding his arrest for rape, although investigation of the waitress' charges had not connected him with the case until his apprehension.

# Rapist Is Sentenced To Death

SUFFOLK, March 14 — (AP) — Mancy Christian, 25, Negro convict, was sentenced today to be executed May 1 on conviction of two separate charges of rape of a 15-year-old Chuckatuck High School girl.

Judge John K. Hutton pronounced sentence in Nansemond County Circuit Court in the case which was said to be the first of its kind in the county in approximately 60 years.

Christian had pleaded guilty to the first indictment and innocent to the second, but changed his plea to guilty in the second indictment when he was placed on the stand.

He glanced often at the girl while on the stand as he related his father was serving a prison term and that his mother was dead. He denied the girl's charge that he threatened to cut her throat with a knife.

**Girl Makes Promise**

The girl testified that she had promised Christian she "wouldn't tell anyone" of the attack, adding she made the promise to him in order to get him to release her.

The crimes for which the Negro received the death sentence were committed after he escaped from a State prison camp.

After he was sentenced, Christian asked his lawyer, Edward Gillette, of Southampton County, if he could have another trial. The attorney told him he would have to write to the Governor about that matter.

Christian was recaptured February 17 near Courtland by Nansemond and Southampton County officers, and was indicted by a special grand jury. He was jailed in a secret place, and today the doors of the courtroom were closed to the public.

# Trusty Found Guilty Of Rape In Jail

*Special to Journal and Guide*

DANVILLE, Va. — Although he pleaded not guilty to the charge of rape, and his alleged victim, a 33-year-old white woman testifying at his trial here Tuesday of last week, insisted that she had never positively identified him as her assailant, Vander Lee Gibson was nevertheless found guilty by a jury in Corporation Court and sentenced to life imprisonment.

On the witness stand, the complainant, failing to identify the defendant as the right man, asserted, "I don't want to accuse the wrong man."

The jury returned its verdict she had said she was doing. On questioning, Lee disclaimed enmity against Gibson, saying that no ill-felling existed between them.

Lee denied that he had been into the basement that night, and denied that he had told John Boyd, another of the trusties, not to say anything about his (Lee's) having been down there.

The complainant, telling of incidents alleged to have happened on that night, said she had taken two drinks of whiskey in a restuarant with a girl she could not positively identify, claiming this was the first whiskey she had drunk in her life.

At her suggestion, she said, she and her companion went down to the river bank, as a means of escaping public attention and it was there where she was arrested. She admitted she was crying and yelling at the time she was taken to jail, claiming this was the first time she had ever been in the lock-up.

The woman testified that while in the dungeon cell she called for some water, and that a trusty responded with a bowl of warm water which she drank.

**TELLS OF ATTACK**

Stating that she had observed through a dim light in the hallway the man who brought the water, the witness said he had remarked, "I'm coming in,' whereupon she replied, "You better not." He left with the bowl, she testified, pulling the door shut and leaving her in absolute darkness. The alleged rape vitcim declared that the man reappeared shortly, entered her cell against her protests, clutched her throat, threw her down and criminaly assaulted her.

The complaining witness claimed that she fully resisted, but admitted that she did not scratch and claw her alleged attacker because he had his hand on her throat and she feared the consequence of fighting him. She aserted that the man kept his hand at her throat while committing the outrage.

The witness then testified that she called out, "If there's a white man in Danville, come and get me out of here."

She said that when the jailor, A. C. Hazelwood, later came to her cell, she admonished him not to come in, thinking that he was the man who had assaulted her. "Don't come in here anymore," she testified she told the jailer. Hazelwood told her, she said, to be quiet and he would move her upstairs with the other women prisoners. Returning to remove her, the witness asesrted, the jailer was accompanied by a trusty who opened the dungeon door, which usually has to be pried open with an axe.

The woman said she told the jailer what had happened, and also told the other women prisoners of the alleged attack.

Under cross-examination the witness testified that none of her garments had been removed in the supposed attack.

She also denied that the man who had come to her cell had said, "let me come in." She quoted him as saying, "I'm coming in."

Insisting that because of fright and the darkness she could not fully identify her assailant, the witness testified that she had said she thought John Boyd, another trusty, was the man.

"Didn't you identify Boyd?" the defense attorney asked.

"I said I think he was the one," she replied.

Under re-examination by the commonwealth's attorney, the witness stated that she had not said seh was positve Gibson was the right man. "I don't want to accuse the wrong man," she added.

# Clemency Refused, Rapist Must Die

Richmond, Va., Jan. 30 (AP) — Governor Darden today declined a plea to commute the death sentence of Willie Rodgers Jones, 20, Norfolk Negro, who in December was sentenced to death after he had pleaded guilty to a charge of rape.

The victim, a white female driver of a for-hire automobile, was also beaten.

Jones is scheduled for execution at the State Penitentiary Friday, exactly four months after the crime occurred.

In passing sentence, Judge Robert B. Spindle in corporation court made a point of the fact that many young women have been called into unusual lines of work during the war and said that these must be given maximum protection.

Virginia

7228

# Man Convicted Of Rape, Theft To Die Today

Va.
Richmond Times
8-3-45

Lonnie Pearson, alias Lester Pearson, Portsmouth Negro convicted of rape and robbery of a young white mother at her home near Hodges Ferry on February 5, will die in the electric chair at the State penitentiary here this morning.

Judge A. B. Carney, of Norfolk County Circuit Court, where Pearson was tried, overruled a motion fo ra new trial on May 5. An appeal was noted by counsel appointed by the court to defend Pearson and a stay of execution for 60 days granted by Judge Carney, who set the date for August 3. Petition for a writ was not heled, however, and the State Board of Pardons on July 18 refused Pearson a reprieve.

Pearson was tried on April 27 when, in less than 15 minutes, a jury returned a verdict of guilty, carrying with it the death penalty. Pearson had pleaded innocent.

A boy scout knife with a broken handle wrapped in twine, together with identification by the victim, were brought into court as evidence. The victim told of the knife being used by her assailant to force her to submit to him and also to turn over $5 in money to him before he left the house, locking her in with her 3-year-old son and throwing the key in the yard. The victim said the man threatened to kill her.

# *New Twist For Old Story-- Accused Negro Sues Whites*

New York Amsterdam

The South woke up to find that a Negro of Portsmouth, Va., has filed suit against a white man and woman who attempted to charge him with "rape" and "robbery." The suit, for $10,000, charges that the couple tried to bring him "into public infamy, scandal and disgrace."

On July 15 Betty Dotson accused Mr. Watts of the Watts Open Air Market, of assaulting her in a lonely lane and then taking her purse. Watts, driving home with the day's receipts from his market, was followed by the couple in a car. Ignoring them, he was then questioned by police from neighboring counties. Later he was told that police had dropped the charges.

9-8-45

But not Mr. Watts. He says, "I intend to push this thing to the utmost. I am not thinking so much of myself. I am thinking of others who are sometimes put in jail on false charges of this nature and who are not in a position to prove their innocence.

47i-1945

7232

# NAACP Lynch Bill Is Pushed

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (NNPA) — An Anti-Lynch Bill, sponsored by the NAACP, will be pushed by a bi-partisan coalition in the House of Representatives, it was learned Thursday. Three Republicans and three Democrats have introduced anti-Lynching Bills. All six will throw their efforts behind the NAACP — sponsored bill, however, at an informal steering committee. The bills have been introduced by Democratic Representatives, Emanuel Celler (New York), Louis Ludlow (Indiana) and Adam Clayton Powell (New York) and by Republican Repesentatives Everett M. Dirksen (Illinois), Charles R.

Regional Conference to be held here Saturday and Sunuday and which will culminate in a big city mass meeting.

It was also annonced that the branch members will complete plans for launhing the annual Membership drive which also gets underway here at the time of the Regional meeting.

(1)

# Young Preacher Foils Would-Be Lynch Mob

Philadelphia Tribune-23
5-26-45

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (ANP) —The Rev. Arthur Carlton, a young Methodist preacher, is credited with foiling would-be lynchers in Ramer, a suburb of this city, recently.

A drunken Negro had fatally injured a white man and was under arrest in Ramer. Sensing growing excitement in the town, Mr. Carlton urged the deputy sheriff to bring the prisoner here for safe keeping.

After considerable needless delay, the deputy started. Fearing possible mob violence, the preacher fell in behind him and followed out of town. Soon the party was overtaken by four men who tried to pass. The preacher recognized them, however, and suspecting their purpose, deliberately kept the center of the road so they could not get by. They finally turned back and the deputy proceeded safely.

Two days later, the young preacher was warned that his life was in danger because of what he had done. When the warning was repeated by members of his church, who pleaded with him to leave, it was thought wise to transfer him to a charge in another section of the state. He is now located at Columbia.

5-26-45

Chicago Defender
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The mob after entering the jail and seeing the cell vacated melted away.

# Georgia Sheriff Saves Man From Mob

Weekly Review
7-7-45

BLAKELY, Ga. — (ANP) — The quick action of Sheriff Sid Howell prevented the lynching here on Wednesday of Sam Hall, 24, who was charged with criminally assaulting a 14 year old white girl. A few minutes after word of Hall's arrest had spread throughout the community, a large mob of white men carrying arms approached the Blakely jail, demanding of the sheriff that the suspect be turned over to them.

Bham, Ala.

Sheriff Howell, holding a pistol in his hand, attempted to reason with the mob to let the law take it course, while two of his deputies spirited Hall out of the back door to an undisclosed jail for safe-keeping.

Weekly-Review

(1)

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Houston, Texas
the Informer

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7-7-45

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# State Patrol On Duty After Alabama Clashes

Atlanta, Ga.
Atlanta Daily World

EUFAULA, Ala. — (S N S) — Twelve state patrolmen were on duty here Monday and all liquor stores and beer halls were closed after a series of week-end clashes between Negroes and whites.

The trouble started Saturday after the funeral of a 17-year-old girl who allegedly was attacked and drowned by a Negro.

A large crowd attended the funeral services Saturday afternoon.

A few hours later, officers said, a group of white men attacked several Negroes. The allegedly caused neck, shoulder and arm injuries to one Negro and beat up a 13-year-old Negro boy listed as Willie Hollins, a drug store porter.

Police said the disorders had ended late Saturday.

The Negro arrested in the attack-murder of the white girl, listed by police as Peter Paul Hall, 23, had been taken to the State Prison at Montgomery for safe-keeping. He confessed the crime, police reported.

7-16-45

His case was expected to go before the grand jury on July 12 and he probably will be tried next week. Conviction would carry the death penalty.

(1)

## "AN UNDISCLOSED JAIL"

Columbia, S.C. State

A North Carolina Negro, who is reported to have confessed murdering a white woman, is said to be held "in an undisclosed jail," obviously for fear of an attempt to lynch him.

9-12-45

We realize that human nature is such that wrath rises against the alleged perpetrator of such crimes. But at the same time, we deplore the existence of a situation throughout the South where mob violence must be so carefully guarded against; where men cannot be trusted to let the law take its course.

(1)

# Fight to Save Negro From Lynch 'Justice'

By MILDRED McADORY

**NEWARK, N. J.—Herman Powell, Negro fugitive from Georgia's lynch mob justice, sat in a jail cell at Newark, N. J., and said: "I ain't going back there, I'll kill myself first, I know what they'll do to me down there."**

On March 16, 1941, Powell was on his way home from work when his automobile was struck by another in which two white women were riding. One of the women died of injuries. Had it been his fault, had he been white, the charge would have been manslaughter. But he was a Negro. Georgia law said murder.

Powell's life was that of a typical Negro boy in the deep South. He had lived in a shack in the cotton belt. He knew what it meant to be hungry, to work from sun-up until sun-down. He learned this was a white man's world, and a Negro boy had a "place."

Powell found a job in a garage in a small town near his home. In two years he had established a very good record. At the age of 24 he was an expert mechanic, able to run the shop alone. He was paid $7 a week.

With the help of his wife, Modelle, he was able to save money. When they had $300, he bought a second-hand car.

On the day of the accident it was raining. About 500 yards from his home there was a crossing. As he approached he saw the other car, but didn't stop, he had the right of way. Neither did the other car stop, he put on his brakes; there was a crash.

Powell was unconscious for three days. They told him he had killed a white woman. He didn't understand how it was his fault. Yet Powell was a Negro, a white woman was dead, Georgia said it was murder.

At the trial about three months later Powell said he had been railroaded. The victim's daughter, who was in the car at the time of the accident said it was unavoidable. They gave him life imprisonment. The case was appealed, yet Georgia Supreme Court upheld the sentence. In both trials there were all white juries.

He was locked in the Johnson County jail. He and one other prisoner lived there for a year together.

One week-end the Sheriff went away, they were 48 hours without food. They had been given the key in case of fire. They walked out of the place. With the aid of kind drivers, he arrived in Newark, New Jersey. He felt here he would be safe from the Georgia cops.

He went to work in a meat packing house, learned to like his work and the city. He learned Negroes could vote and enjoy the privilege of life. Most of all he learned he was a man there. That each man lived by his merits rather than his color. He worked for two years.

One day he was called to the office, the Georgia cops had found him, he was jailed. Despite the fact that 35,000 petitions had been signed, Gov. Edge ordered him sent back to Georgia on August 14, 1944. An appeal was taken to the United States Circuit Court in Philadelphia. This appeal is now pending.

The New Jersey Herman Powell Defense Committee is renewing the fight to free Powell. This is a broad committee with trade unions, The Negro Labor Victory Committee of Newark, fraternal organization, The Republican, Communist, and Democratic parties, youth groups, social clubs, churches, in fact, most organized groups are working to free Herman Powell.

Similar cases have been won for the outstanding case of Samuel [illegible] fugitives from Georgia justice, and Buchanon, who fled to Jersey from [illegible] other Southern States. One was Georgia. Another David Williams extradition in Jersey. There [illegible]

7233

Interested groups to participate in the campaign to free Herman Powell all

# BRICKS, RAZORS, SHOTS

By Daily Mail Reporter

**POLICE in trucks and American military and naval police were rushed to Soho last night to quell the worst street fighting that has broken out in London during the war between coloured men and American soldiers.**

A crowd of about 1,000 VJ revellers watched the street battle until the police patrol cars, summoned to the scene of the riot by a girl, tried to cordon off the scores of fighting men.

The fight started in Shaftesbury-avenue when bricks were hurled, and two American sailors were badly cut with razors.

The white troops were enraged by the beating up and stabbing of two of their number and a white girl by coloured civilians.

Americans chased the coloured men, civilians, along Gerrard-street, where a pitched battle developed. American naval police arrived and fired shots into the air to break up the fight.

**The coloured men ran into the Colonial Club in Gerrard-street, and from upper windows threw bottles and bricks at the uniformed Americans below.**

## 'Lynch them'

Fifty Metropolitan police arrived and guarded the entrance to the club, while American military and naval police drew truncheons and linked arms to prevent hundreds of angry American soldiers and sailors from forcibly entering the club to lynch the men.

"Bring 'em out and lynch 'em,' the soldiers cried, and as the temper of the men grew more police were sent for to prevent them from carrying out their threat.

Meanwhile the two injured American sailors had been taken to the Rainbow Club for first-aid treatment and were afterwards taken to hospital. The girl who was hit on the head with a brick received first-aid treatment.

For nearly an hour the fight had surged round the Soho streets and Shaftesbury-avenue

## Saved by British

At 2 a.m. this morning detectives entered the club to question the men involved in the fight, one of whom had been saved from lynching in the street by a dozen British constables.

**Soon after 2 a.m. police took from the club 20 coloured men who were bundled into waiting police vans and taken to Saville-row Police Station.**

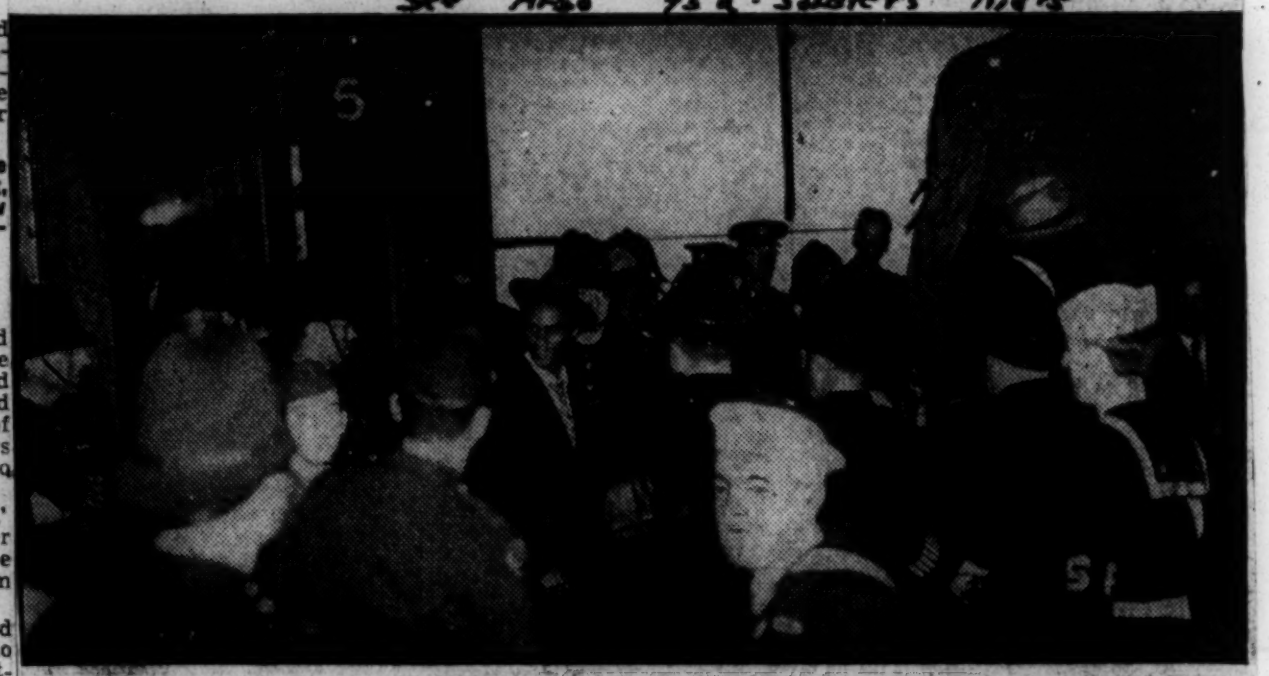
As they were leaving the club the crowd tried to break through the police cordon who, with drawn truncheons and revolvers, had linked arms to keep the crowd back.

Bricks were hurled at the coloured men over the heads of the police. Five Americans were hurt in the fight.

Three white women were also taken from the club.

**U.S. TROOPS IN 2 a.m. BATTLE**

# 'Lynch crowd' besieges a West End club



*POLICE escorting coloured men out of the Gerrard-street club this morning.—Exclusive Daily Mail picture.*

## Near-Lynching Occurs As G.I.'s Riot In London

London, Aug. 18 (Saturday) (AP) —Pistols were fired into the air in a battle between white and Negro American soldiers in the streets near Picadilly Circus today.

The British Press Association said about 30 white soldiers "enraged by the beating and stabbing of two Marines, a G.I. and a white girl by colored men," seized two Negro soldiers in the street about 1 a.m.

The Negroes were said to have sought refuge in a club which was besieged immediately by white soldiers armed with clubs and other weapons.

One Negro who tried to break out was captured at Rainbow Corner, site of a big Red Cross service club for soldiers, the Press Association said.

"He was nearly lynched," the agency quoted a police sergeant as saying.

"Police beat off his attackers in the nick of time. Even so he had a serious head wound."

Order was restored by U. S. military police and London bobbies.

## Bus Passenger Escapes Va. Mob

WASHINGTON

The NAACP is investigating reports of a near lynching which rocked nearby Virginia, Sunday, growing out of a disturbance on a jim-crow bus.

A motorcade of more than a score of automobiles scoured the countryside of Rosslyn and Arlington searching for a colored passenger, after he had been attacked by two white sailors for failing to give his seat in the rear of the bus to their female companions.

During the disturbance, the woman was knocked unconscious. Unable to halt the fight, the bus driver opened the door and permitted the colored passenger to escape against the protests of whites. One white lieutenant was badly beat when he went to the rescue of the victim when he said he was a war veteran.

The young man, after hiding in the woods, finally reached Washington and told his story to the NAACP. Because charges of assault were filed against him with Virginia police, his identity was not disclosed.

7249

## Escaped Convict Hunted in Rape

Fredericksburg, Va., April 21 (AP). Police are making an extensive search in this section for Robert Pretlowe, Negro convict who escaped late yesterday from the Howison State Prison Camp here after allegedly criminally assaulting a 78-year-old Negro woman in King George County.

Fredericksburg police said they were told that Pretlowe left a gang working on a road in King George County for a short time, which was permissible because of his status of trusty. Soon after he returned to work, they said, a woman came from her home nearby and reported to a guard that she had been raped. Police said she identified Pretlowe as her attacker.

Pretlowe escaped as the truck was returning with the convicts to the camp. The machine was nearing Fredericksburg when he left it.

### ACQUITTED ON ATTACK CHARGE

Napoleon Green, 32, 2029 Prospect, charged with rape and robbery of a white woman, was acquitted by a jury in the circuit court of Judge Thomas J. Seehorn, Tuesday afternoon.

The state had asked the death penalty in the case. The alleged attack occurred on February 7. Green, in his testimony, made no effort to produce an alibi from the witness stand. He said he could not remember where he was early on the morning of February 7, but that he was probably at home.

## 2 GIs To Hang; Accused Of Rape By Nazi Women

TAUBERBISCHOFSHEIM, Germany.—Three American Negro soldiers were convicted of rape last week by a court-martial which sentenced two to be hanged and a third to life imprisonment.

The complainants, two German women, were in court when the verdict was announced.

Of the convicted men, Tech. 5th Grade Pugh, Farlington, Va., was sentenced to life while Pvt. Harold Williams, New Orleans, La., and Pvt. Luster Wright, Cleveland, Ohio, were sentenced to be hanged.

## Abernant Negro's Trial Scheduled For March 12

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Trial of Johnny B. Smith, 23, Negro, of Abernant, charged with criminally attacking a white woman of the Caffey Junction section in eastern Tuscaloosa County on Feb. 10 was set for Monday, March 12, by Judge W. C. Farrah Friday.

Smith pleaded not guilty when arraigned Friday. He was indicted for criminal assault by the Circuit Grand Jury last Tuesday.

The Negro, being held for safekeeping in Jefferson County Jail, Birmingham was brought here under escort of 10 state highway patrolmen and two deputies from the sheriff's office for the hearing.

## Little Scottsboro' Case Brings 5 Boys To Trial

### YOUTHS ARE ACCUSED OF ATTACKING 19Yr. OLD WHITE WOMAN

### Negro Maid Says She Solicited Trade For The Accuser

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (ANP)—Five Negro boys are awaiting their fate in the "little Scottsboro case" here for the alleged raping of a white woman. The boys are David Lawless, Daniel Rucker, Herbert Stephenson, John Billingsley and Tommy Rawlings.

The white woman, Annie Bell Morgan, accused the boys of raping her on October 9, when she left a black and tan tavern. Miss Morgan, 19, is a native of Sweetwater, Tennessee, and is described as attractive and well dressed.

The five youths carried her to the rear of the starchi skyscraper building and assaulted her on the night of October 9, she charges. But according to the testimony of a colored maid of one of the smaller hotels here, she has solicited male companions for the young white woman at the rate of $10 per date. The colored maid testified that she received $4 of every $10 date she solicited for Miss Morgan.

The all-white jury and the overpacked court room heard defense attorney Hebert Atkins, one of the boys' four defense lawyers, say, "These are the colored boys; they are American citizens." Then putting the jury on the spot, he continued:

"I am glad that here in this state color is not tried in our courts. Here we recognize neither race, color nor creed; Jew nor Gentile. This country is fighting now that democracy, our way of life, may be preserved to all here, regardless of color or creed or creed, and that the state has not proved its case against these boys, we ask that you do your clear duty and free each one of them."

According to the testimony of the physician who examined Miss Morgan, there were no perceptible bruises or scratches anywhere on her body and she admitted under questioning that she had been sexually intimate with men beside her husband.

While the entire history of case has been unique, the local press has been ultra conservative reporting it. No effort has been made to appeal to racial animosity by either side and the trial scene is one of calm and sobriety.

# Marine tried for rape in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS—Charged with attempted rape and desertion of his post, Marine Pfc. David Hickman, 24, was tried by court martial at the 8th District Naval Repair base, Algiers, La., last Wednesday and Thursday, and at press time, the verdict had not been returned.

On the night of Nov. 25, Hickman was assigned to guard a parking lot at a Naval ammunition depot in McAlester, Okla., between 8 p.m. and midnight. Shortly after 9 p.m. an unnamed white woman was attacked, choked, and thrown to the ground on a muddy footpath near Hickman's post. Her screams attracted passers-by and her assailant was frightened off. Naval authorities were notified of the incident and a search was made.

Hickman was asked if he had heard the screams; he denied hearing any. However, during the trial, testimony was given by his superior officers that when approached Hickman had mud on his shoes, trousers, at the knees, on his hands, and fresh abrasions about his face. And the officers, also testified that the parking lot which Hickman was assigned to patrol was completely asphalted, and that there was no other part of the post where he could have muddied himself.

Throughout the trial no reference was made to the racial identity of the victim or of the accused. The court martial was held in New Orleans because it is the headquarters of the 8th Naval district. Hickman was brought here on Dec. 13th.

# Woman Charges Rape By Wielder of Knife

A 22-year-old Detroit woman reported to police she was raped at 12:45 a.m. yesterday by one of two Negroes who threatened her and a companion, Joe Jones, 24, Jeffersonville, with knives on River Road near Floyd. The second Negro attempted to rape her, she said. Jones told police he ran for help and returned shortly with two railroad workers, but the attackers had fled.

# Willie McCarter Held On Assault Charge

City Detectives Henry Weir and Grover Gilliland Tuesday obtained a warrant for Willie McCarter, 43-year-old department store Negro porter, charging him with criminal assault in connection with an attack on a packing house woman employe in North Birmingham Oct. 25.

The detectives said the Negro had admitted the attack on the woman, who was then employed by the Alabama Packing Company. They said he took them to a place on the railroad track and pointed out the exact spot where the assault occurred. He also told them of riding the same streetcar as the woman he admitted assaulting and getting off at the same time as the woman and following her.

The Negro was arrested by Police Sgt. J. T. Rouse and Radio Partolmen H. L. Walker and E. L. Quinn last Friday morning on complaint of a Central Park woman who told officers that he approached her as she was waiting for a ride to a defense plant where she is employed. She said the Negro approached her and as he attempted to put his hands on her she screamed loudly. L. P. Herd, who works nearby, told police he heard the woman scream and seized the Negro and held him until police arrived at 16th Street and Second Avenue, North.

A check of McCarter's time card at his place of employment revealed that he was late in reporting for work the morning the woman was attacked in October.

# Dungeon in Danville

A WHITE woman mill worker was arrested in Danville on a misdemeanor charge. According to arresting officers, she created a disturbance at the jail and for that reason was placed in a dark cell, called the "dungeon" by jail attendants. There, it is alleged, she was criminally attacked by a Negro trusty. The Commonwealth's attorney has issued a warrant for the trusty, and, if he is found guilty, he will no doubt be dealt with properly.

This, however, is not the only shocking thing about the case. Aside from the obvious laxity of jail attendants which permitted such an outrage to take place, it is astounding that any one arrested for a mere misdemeanor should be confined in a dungeon in any civilized community. Indeed, enlightened penology does not countenance the use of dark cells for any kind of offender.

The instance in Danville is especially reprehensible in view of the fact that the city sergeant said he had given orders recently that the dungeon not be used. Previously it had been used for refractory prisoners, but evidently the city sergeant realized that this relic of the Dark Ages had no place in penal practices of today. He began an inquiry to find out why his order had not been obeyed. If it had been followed, the crime against the woman prisoner would hardly have occurred, and the trusty would not now be faced with a serious charge.

This is an illustration of how one evil often leads to other evils. Whoever was responsible for placing the woman in the dark cell should be taken severely to task, and the people of Danville should see to it that the dungeon is never used again by insisting that the city authorities remove it from the jail. Such devices have caused incalculable harm, and they are generally condemned, but, unhappily, there are still all too many of them to be found in prisons.

# GIRL, 15, RAPED; MAN IN UNIFORM OF YANK SOUGHT

## Four Held in Another Attack Case

Police yesterday were seeking a man wearing a soldier's uniform who raped a 15 year old high school girl in an areaway at 1753 S. Throop st.

The girl, on her way home early in the morning after caring for the children of friends, was approached by the man at 18th st. and Ashland av., where she changed street cars. He threatened her and forced her to accompany him to the areaway on Throop st. where he attacked her. She told police that he choked her to prevent any outcry.

**Four Held by Police**

In custody of police were four Negroes seized early yesterday after they allegedly raped an 18 year old Negro girl in the garage at the rear of 4312 Michigan av.

Those held are Emanuel Hill, 17, of 4415 Wabash av.; James Henderson, 17, of 30 E. 44th st.; Donald Harding, 16, of 4442 Evans av., and Elmer Storey, 16, of 57 E. 44th st.

The girl told police she was walking home after visiting friends when the men, whom she had known previously, accosted her at 44th st. and Wabash av.

They said they would escort her home, but instead forced her to the garage. Residents who heard her cries summoned police.

**Four Others Await Trial**

Held in the county jail under $190,000 bond pending trial in Criminal court on charges of two rapes and five robberies are four other Negroes. Victims in these cases were two white women, one a 17 year old telephone operator, and the other the wife of an overseas soldier who was stripped and raped in a lot at 65th st. and Sayre av.

The defendants are Noel Parks, 18, of 1221 W. 60th st., William Robinson, 16, of 5935 S. Racine av., Joseph Jackson, 15, of 6040 Elizabeth st., and Theodore Wiley, 17, of 6017 S. Racine av. Robinson and Wiley were accused in only one rape case, while Jackson because of his age was named only in the robberies.

# Attack on Girl Charged To Man at Blakely

BLAKELY, Ga., June 25—(AP)—A Negro charged with assaulting a 14-year-old white girl was arrested by Sheriff Sid Howell and taken to an undisclosed jail for safekeeping.

Shortly after arrest of the Negro Thursday evening, a group of men carrying arms came to the Blakely jail and demanded the Negro. Sheriff Howell said he persuaded the men to go home and "let the law take its course."

# ATTACK, SLAYING SUSPECT IS HELD

EUFAULA, Ala., July 5—(AP)—Barbour County Solicitor Crews Johnston said today he would recommend a special Grand Jury to investigate the criminal attack on and drowning of a young white woman.

A Negro identified as Peter Paul Hall, about 22, was arrested and taken to Kilby Prison for safe-keeping. Johnston said a confession, corroborated by other evidence, had been obtained.

Circuit Judge J. S. Williams was away from his Clayton home. Johnston said he would confer with the jurist tomorrow.

The dead girl met death on her 18th birthday. Police Chief H. L. McCullohs quoted Hall as saying he seized her as she passed his house about 7 a.m. yesterday, attacked her twice over a period of several hours, then drowned her in a creek.

Hall was arrested about 4 a.m. today after the girl's father had reported her failure to return home from work. Johnston said Hall directed officers to the creek where the body was recovered.

The solicitor said the Negro had been arrested previously on a charge of attacking a Negro woman, pleaded guilty to an assault charge and was fined $100.

# NEGRO MAID SAID SHE DATED WHITE WOMAN WITH BOYS NOW BEING TRIED ON RAPE CHARGE

2-10-45

## Girl Accused in "Little Scottsboro Case" Admits Promiscous Sex Relations

## VISITED BLACK AND TAN TAVERNS

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—(ANP)—Five Negro boys are awaiting their fate in the "little 'Scottsboro' case" here for the alleged raping of a white woman. Names of the boys are David Lawless, Daniel Rucker, Herbert Stephenson, John Billingsley and Tommy Rawlings. 2-10-45

The white woman, Annie Bell Morgan, accused the boys of raping her on October 9 when she left a black and tan tavern. Miss Morgan, 19, is a native of Sweetwater, Tenn., and is described as attractive and well dressed.

The five youths carried her to the rear of the Sterchi skyscraper building and assaulted her on the night of October 9, she charges. But, according to the testimony of a colored maid of one of the smaller hotels here, she has solicited male companions for the young white woman at the rate of $10 per date. The colored maid testified that she received $4 of every $10 date she solicited for Miss Morgan.

The all-white jury and the overpacked court room heard defense attorney Hebert Atkins, one of the boys' four defense lawyers, say: "These are not colored boys, they are American citizens." Then putting the jury on the spot, he continued:

"I am glad that here in this state 'color' is not tried in our courts. Here we recognize neither race, color nor creed, Jew nor Gentile. This country is fighting now that democracy, our way of life, may be preserved to all here, regardless of race, color or creed and that the state has not proved its case against these boys, we ask that you do your clear duty and free each one of them."

According to the testimony of the physician who examined Miss Morgan, there were no perceptible bruises or scratches anywhere on her body and she admitted under questioning that she had had sexually intimate with men beside her husband.

While the entire history of the case has been unique, the local press has been ultra conservative in reporting it. No effort has been made to appeal to racial animosity by either side and the trial scene is one of calm and sobriety.

The attack on the young girl was made on Friday night, February 2, as she was returning to her home from a basketball game. Officers have been searching for the convict since that time.

## Youth Faces Rape Charge

3-24-45

Eighteen-year-old Amelie Sanchez of the Bronx, weighing 138 pounds, fights for his freedom in Bronx County Court against a confession he says was beaten out of him by police who picked him up four days after a white woman claimed she had been attacked by a 200-pound, burly Negro. The woman, according to hospital records, is suffering from a venereal disease. Yet Sanchez has no such disease. 3-24-45

The police arrested the youth without any evidence. Clare Schweloff, the accuser, made no outcery. According to her testimony, she was carried through a long hall and up four flights of stairs. She says she was raped four times and then walked down two flights without her shoes in the company of the attacker. She returned to the roof alone, got her shoes and went to the street.

She says she collapsed in the arms of a man who took her home. She cannot produce this man. One mistrial has been declared because of the conduct of the assistant DA. The husband of the accuser who has returned from the army for the trial, attempted to assault Sanchez in the court room.

## Rape Suspect Arrested in Va.

2-15-45

Suffolk, Va., Feb. 14 (AP).—Sheriff Frank Culpepper of Nansemond County announced this morning that Nancy Christian, 25-year-old Negro convict, who escaped from the road gang on January 13, was arrested early today in Southampton County on a charge of rape of a 15-year old girl from Churchtuck.

Christian was arrested near Courtland in Southampton County. He was taken to a jail which was not disclosed.

## Mistrial Declared In Dillard Case; Attack Charged

4-27-45

After deliberating for four and a half hours Wednesday afternoon an all-white jury of the Fulton Superior Court failed to return a verdict and the trial of Andrew Dillard, 67 of this city, charged with rape, was declared a mistrial by Judge Virlyn B. Moore.

The case went to trial on Tuesday morning, after Dillard had been granted a new trial following his conviction of the criminal assault charges on a young white woman last fall in the Manford road section of the city. 4-27-45

After the jury reported to Judge Moore that a verdict could not be reached a poll was taken and it showed five for acquittal and in favor of a 20-year sentence, and three members of the jury stood firmly for the death penalty, the same penalty meted Dillard a this trial on the charges late last year.

**MISTAKEN IDENTITY ARGUED**

During the lengthy hearing in which more than a dozen witnesses were placed on the same, about half for the prosecution, and the others who were alibi witnesses for the defendant, the state contended that Dillard had been positively identified by the victim, a 17-year-old girl and her companion, a white man 25-years-old, who claimed that they were approached by Dillard and another unidentified Negro man, who assaulted them, and after wards raped the girl. The defense argued that Dillard was not at the scene of the assault, and produced witnesses to attest his whereabouts early during the night on last Labor Day, September 4.

Defense counsel was Attorney Eugene L. Tiller of the law firm of William Schley Howard, the latter who handled the case personally last year when Dillard was given the sentence of life in the electric chair and who later led the fight for the new trial. Prosecuting was Assistant Solicitor Ruben Garland who asked the jury in his argument Wednesday morning to return a death verdict for Dillard.

7250

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## Rape

picked him from an organizational lineup.

None of the men denied the act, according to corps officials, but the defense arguments held that the act did not constitute rape since the accused contend that both gave their consent and accepted their gifts after the second indulgence.

**Says Men Were Quiet, Sober**

At the trial, conducted in Tauberbischofen courtroom, where the walls gleamed with Nazi Swastikas, the older woman testified through interpreters that the men were sober, quiet, and cautions, and she did not send the child for help because of fear.

She could not remember who spread a blanket in a room where one relationship is supposed to have occurred.

Her husband was reportedly in the hospital the night of the act. His return the next morning prompted the report to U.S. authorities.

**Looking for Liquor**

The soldiers said they entered the house in search of liquor. That was the night of April 4. Ten days later two are sentenced to die, the other to life imprisonment.

Inside Germany, where they came to avenge the maltreatment of most of Europe's peoples by Nazis devils, infamous for rape, torture, and murder, three Americans have been convicted of a crime they say they did not commit.

Be that as it may, with the army's strict orders against fraternization, the men are surely guilty of misconduct. Maybe they are being made "examples," but whatever the case, at least the Burgermeister must be happy.

*(Correspondent's afterthought: I wonder whether the German army would have meted out like sentences to three of its troopers.)*

# "Intent to Rape" Brings Youth 25-Year Term

CHARLESTON—A sentence of 25 years in prison was imposed upon Arthur Middleton, by an all-white jury which after deliberating 26 minutes, found him guilty of attacking a white housewife "with intent to ravish." The sentence has been appealed on the basis of the many discrepancies in the evidence, and the Charleston NAACP, with the cooperation of labor and civic organizations, last week began raising money for an "Arthur Middleton Defense Fund."

The story of Middleton's accuser, Mrs. Price, is that a Negro man, wearing a soldier's uniform, came to her door at 3 pm last September 7, on James Island, near Charleston and asked for a glass of water. When she gave the man the water, she testified, he tried to attack her, threatening her with a gun, but ran away when she screamed.

Mrs. Price ran to a neighbors and said that a short, stocky man, in a soldier's uniform, armed with a pistol, had tried to attack her. Two hours later when 21-year-old Middleton, lanky and five feet ten inches tall, wearing a white shirt and tan tousers, was brought in by police, Mrs. Price immediately said, "Yes, he's the one."

Middleton's grandmother testified that he had been at her house at the time of the alleged assault, and when police came for him, he was repairing his car in her yard. The soldier's uniform which Mrs. Price said her attacker wore has never been produced nor the pistol he is said to have threatened her with. The only fingerprints police deciphered on the water glass the attacker was said to have handled were those of Mrs. Price.

No lawyer could be found who would take Middleton's case until one was assigned by the court. Observers point out that even had Middleton's guilt been proved, the sentence is one based purely on racial considerations. Several months ago when a white policeman raped a young Negro girl in Charleston, he was sentenced to only three months in prison.

# A DOUBLE STANDARD OF MORALS

Hidden in convenient little corners in the nation's press last week was one of those typical half-truth news stories designed to give the Negro a black eye. Direct from Germany, it told of the death sentence imposed upon two Negro soldiers for the rape of two German women.

In precise but perfunctory terms, the Associated Press report related the details of the court martial proceedings which were ostensibly supposed to demonstate how fair-minded are Americans in their invasion of Germany.

Behind that small newspaper item is a shocking tale that demonstrates that the Jim Crow double standard of treatment for Negroes and whites in the United States army extends even to the field of sex.

What are the facts in this rape case?

The Negro soldiers coming into a German town entered a building where two women and a child huddled in a corner. Hungry like all people in conquered Europe, the women offered their bodies in exchange for some chocolate. The soldiers, hungry for sex like many soldiers, accepted the offer.

It wasn't long afterward that one of the German women's husbands learned of the affair and complained to American military officials. The Negro soldiers were identified, court martialed and sentenced to die.

Reports say that the German woman thanked the U. S. officer in charge. He replied with a comment that Hitler wouldn't do the same to his soldiers, that the Americans did it only to keep discipline.

The reports of the death sentence for these two Negro GIs comes at the same time that Newsweek openly admits that American soldiers in Germany are not going without sex despite U. S. regulations against fraternization with the enemy. The GIs have a slogan which goes: "Cohabitation without conversation is not fraternization."

Here then is another open and shut case of the Army's double standard of morals, one for white GIs, one for Negroes.

It was not the Negro soldiers' crime that they raped German women. The women admitted on the stand that they took offered gifts from the GIs and willing submitted to the soldiers' advances.

Their only crime was that German women are Aryans, are whites. Their only crime was the violation of an unwritten law of the U. S. Army that is written into the law of Nazi Germany. Their only crime was relationship not with a woman, but with a white woman.

Death has become the penalty for crossing the color line.

In a similar case of this kind in England wherein a white prostitute accused a Negro soldier of rape because he did not pay her as much as she wanted General Eisenhower personally intervened to pardon the accused man. Let us hope that the exigencies of war do not doom two Negro soldiers to death this time because on German soil, Americans want to show the foul-minded Nazis that we are "fair." General Eisenhower should act to prevent this disgraceful display of injustice by Americans in Germany.

7251

# Man Charged With Rape After Spending Night

Philadelphia Tribune

CAMDEN, N. J.— Clifton Tubman, who gives as his home address, 720 Van Hook street, here, was arrested early Monday and charged with rape after Mrs. Josephine Ross, 35, white, who lives at 269 Mechanic street, identified him as the man who had spent Sunday night with her.

Tubman, 40, denies the charge and insists that the only time he was in the Ross home was when she asked him, a week earlier, to climb across the roof from his aunt's home at 271 Mechanic street and open the door for her when she had been locked out.

According to Mrs. Ross, however, she was awakened about 11 o'clock Sunday night and saw a man standing over her with a butcher knife. After warning her about making an outcry, he assaulted her three times, leaving at 5:00 a. m.

During the night her aunt, Mrs. Mary Lewis, 70, who slept in the adjoining room, heard voices and arose to investigate. The intruder threatened her with the knife and told her to return to her room and make no sound.

After he left, Mrs. Ross found some jewelry was missing and notified police. Her husband, Anthony, who is employed at New York Ship, was also notified.

Detective Clarence Arthur is assigned to the case.

# Ask Clemency For 2 Negro GIs

A third petition for clemency for Privates Frank Fisher, Jr., and Edward R. Loury, victims in "the Army Scottsboro Case," has been filed with the War Department by Rep Vito Marcantonio, president of the International Labor Defense and counsel for the two men. Associated with him in the appeal was William H. Hastie, chairman of the legal committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who participated also in previous defense moves.

The new petition takes sharp issue with a previous decision of the War Department, which was based on arguments directly contradicted by the facts in the case. In that decision, more than a year ago, the War Department affirmed the "guilt" of the two men but reduced their sentences from life imprisonment to six and eight years, respectively.

The uncontroverted facts are that the two men and an unidentified third soldier, in New Caledonia, had relations with a prostitute, paid her three dollars on the spot, and for that were charged and convicted of rape. The original decision of the officer conducting the investigation was that no charge of rape could possibly be brought. This recommendation, and a large part of the evidence, were withheld from the court martial.

Nearly 3,000 community, professional and labor leaders, with organizations whose memberships run into the millions, have joined the International Labor Defense in urging reversal of the verdict.

# THREE SEIZED WHILE RAPING WOMAN IN LOT

## Watchman Summons Police to Scene

Three Negroes, 15 to 18 years of age, were seized early yesterday as they took turns raping a white woman whom they had kidnaped and stripped of her clothing in a lot at 65th st. and Sayre av.

Later police arrested a fourth Negro who admitted he had taken part with two of the others in a group attack on another woman early Friday morning. The group admitted the attacks and also stealing purses from two other women.

**Mother Is Victim**

Those held are Joseph Jackson, 15, of 6046 S. Elizabeth st.; William Robinson, 16, of 5935 S. Racine av.; Noel Parks, 18, of 1221 W. 60th st., and Theodore Wiley, 17, of 5014 S. Racine av.

Victim of their latest attack was the mother of an 8 year old boy whose husband is a soldier serving overseas. Riding in a borrowed automobile, Jackson, Robinson, and Parks followed the street car which she boarded on her way home early yesterday from a southwest side war plant. When she got off the car near her home, they threatened her with a knife and forced her into the automobile.

She was taken to the lot where her clothing was torn off and she was raped. Summoned by the watchman in an industrial plant nearby, Sgt. John Kringas and a squad from the Willow Springs county highway station seized the men at the scene. The woman was treated at Berwyn hospital for bruises suffered as she fought the rapists.

**Identification Is Made**

On information given by the three held, police arrested Wiley. He, Jackson, and Parks confessed that they had kidnaped and attacked a 19 year old woman as she was on her way home from a theater at 12:45 a. m. Friday. She identified the three men.

They also admitted they had stolen purses from Mary Bratcher, 7240 Perry av., and a companion, Pearl Dillon, of Moline, Rock Island county, earlier yesterday near Miss Bratcher's home. Other rape victims will be asked to view the prisoners after they are questioned in the sex offense bureau.

# 2 GI's to Hang, 3rd Given Life

## Convicted of Attack on 2 German Women

## NO FORCE USED

## Candy, Cigarettes Accepted as Pay

By VINCENT TUBBS

*AFRO War Correspondent with U.S. Troops in Germany*

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WITH SEVENTH ARMY IN GERMANY—In the first general court-martial held inside Germany by this Army, two colored soldiers have been sentenced to hang and a third to life imprisonment for rape of two German women—one about 20, the other around 40 and described as a "hag."

The men involved, who admitted sexual relations, but for a consideration of chocolates and cigarettes which they gave the women, are Pics. Harold Williams of New Orleans, and Luster Wright of Cleveland, Quartermaster troopers who must hang, and T/5 Carey Pugh of Earling, W.Va., signal construction soldier, who drew life.

**Town Official Present**

The testimony was heard by five colonels and a major who took time out from their military objective of slaughtering the Germans to try the case before the town's burgermeister, who was present ostensibly for the purpose of relaying the verdict to the townspeople.

It was brought out by the testimony that the men were armed when they entered a Dittigheim house and found two women and a boy, 9. Cigarettes were offered to and accepted by the women. No outcry was made and there were no evidences of physical violence.

**Name Learned from Letter**

First reports were made to American authorities late the following day and identification was established from the fact that Williams is said to have sat on the bedside after the initial act and read a letter from his wife, during which time one of the women noted his name.

He is said to have identified his accomplices after the elder woman picked him from an organizational lineup.

None of the men denied the act, according to corps officials, but the defense arguments held that the act did not constitute rape since the accused contend that both gave their consent and accepted their gifts after the second indulgence.

**Says Men Were Quiet, Sober**

At the trial, conducted in Tauberbischofen courtroom, where the walls gleamed with Nazi Swastikas, the older woman testified through interpreters that the men were sober, quiet, and cautions, and she did not send the child for help because of fear.

She could not remember who spread a blanket in a room where one relationship is supposed to have occurred.

Her husband was reportedly in the hospital the night of the act. His return the next morning prompted the report to U.S. authorities.

**Looking for Liquor**

The soldiers said they entered the house in search of liquor. That was the night of April 4. Ten days later two are sentenced to die, the other to life imprisonment.

Inside Germany, where they came to avenge the maltreatment of most of Europe's peoples by Nazis devils, infamous for rape, torture, and murder, three Americans have been convicted of a crime they say they did not commit.

Be that as it may, with the army's strict orders against fraternization, the men are surely guilty of misconduct. Maybe they are being made "examples," but whatever the case, at least the Burgermeister must be happy.

*(Correspondent's afterthought: I wonder whether the German army would have meted out like sentences to three of its troopers.)*

7235

## Virginian, 25, Held On Girl's Charges Of Rape, Robbery

Washington Post

Petersburg, Va., Nov. 14 (AP).—Clovis B. Newton, 15, of Richmond, was ordered held for the February grand jury today after a hearing in Chesterfield County Trial Justice Court on charges of rape and robbery. 11-15-45

The charges against Newton were brought in connection with an alleged criminal attack and robbery of a young Colonial Heights woman working at Camp Lee. The alleged attack took place on Saturday night when the young woman reported to Chesterfield police she accepted a ride in an automobile from a man she believed to be a neighbor. 11-15-45

Police said she told them that instead of driving to her home, as she had expected, the driver of the automobile continued into Chesterfield County, where the alleged attack and robbery took place. The woman said her assailant, after attacking her, took all her money and a ring.

Bail for Newton was set at $5000, and in default of it he was returned to the Henrico Jail following the hearing this morning.

## Jury Indicts 1, Frees Other in Wave Assault

Washington Post D.C.

A District bellhop, originally accused of raping three Waves, was indicted yesterday by the Montgomery grand jury for assault with intent to rape one of the women.

His bellhop companion at the time of the alleged attack, accused of raping one of the girls, was not indicted. Both youths have been free on $750 bond. 11-15-45

A bench warrant was issued for Robert Shackelford, 22, of 1226 17th st. nw., and he will be arraigned in Circuit Court at a later date. Freed by the negative action of the jury was Allen Hughett, jr., 18, of the same address.

The two youths were accused of picking the girls up in Arlington and going to the old Gold Mine near MacArthur blvd. in Montgomery County September 25. There, the Waves said, Hughett raped one girl and Shackelford raped three. A third youth on the trip was not involved. The jury indicted Shackelford for rape of the Wave companion of the third youth, but failed to indict for rape of the other two girls.

Assault with intent to rape carries a possible death penalty in Maryland. Early this month, in releasing the men on bond, Judge Stedman Prescott said, under Maryland law a woman must "fight to the last ditch" to protect her honor in order to provide a case of rape.

7236

# Eufaula Slayer Is Held At Kilby

Mont. Advertiser

EUFAULA, ALA., July 5.—(AP)—Barbour County Solicitor Crews Johnston said today he would recommend a special Grand Jury to investigate the criminal attack and drowning of a young white woman.

A negro identified as Peter Paul Hall, about 22, was arrested and taken to Kilby Prison for safe-keeping, Johnston said a confession, corroborated by other evidence, had been obtained.

Circuit Judge J. S. Williams was away from his Clayton home. Johnston said he would confer with the jurist tomorrow.

The dead girl met death on her 18th birthday. Police Chief H. L. McCullochs quoted Hall as saying he seized her as she passed his house about 7 a.m. yesterday, attacked her twice over a period of several hours, then drowned her in a creek.

Hall was arrested about 4 a.m. today after the girl's father had reported her failure to return home from work. Johnston said the negro directed officers to the creek where the body was recovered.

7-6-45

The solicitor said the negro had been arrested previously on a charge of attacking a negro woman, pleaded guilty to an assault charge and was fined $100.

Montgomery, Ala.

identified by his intended victim, according to Chisholm and Stearns.

Bledsoe's arrest took place Saturday and followed coinciding descriptions given the police by the 55-year-old woman he assaulted and the woman who frightened him away from her home. According to the detectives, he accounted for his absence from his own home with a statement that he had gone to collect $2.50 from a cousin. His wife substantiated this and told officers, they said, that he had returned home some time around 1 o'clock in the morning. The rape took place about midnight.

The victim of the negro's assault told the police that he knocked at her back door and said in reply to her demand, "Who's there?" that he was a messenger. She said she directed him to come to the front door. When she opened the door slightly to scrutinize the caller, she said the negro forced his way into the house. Then, she said, he beat her and assaulted her criminally. After that he forced her to let him out the back door. It was assumed that he did not wish to be seen in the light of the street lamp at the front door.

Bledsoe was placed with several other negroes at police headquarters Sunday morning. Both women, whose homes are not far apart, were said to have

# Two Negroes Are Identified In Attacks On White Woman

Montgomery, Ala.

Mont. Advertiser

The Montgomery Police Department disclosed yesterday that it had in custody two negroes who had been identified positively as principals in the rape of a 55-year-old white woman and the attempted rape of two other white women.

7-3-45

Willie Bledsoe, 22 years old, was singled out of a group of five negroes by the woman who was criminally assaulted at her home on Yougene Street Thursday night, according to Police Detectives M. S. Chisholm and Sam D. Stearns who arrested the negro on her description.

7-7-45

Bledsoe also was identified by a woman residing on Rubin Street as the negro she surprised in an attempt to force his way into her home on the night of the criminal assault on Yougene Street.

Also in custody last night was Sam Jeter, 17, accused of an attempted assault on a young matron living on Key Street. Like the others, he was positively singled him out immediately.

In the Key Street case, in which Sam Jeter is implicated, a young married woman was at home while her husband was out with a brother back from the armed services on furlough. She had left the light burning in her bedroom and was awakened to find the young negro pinning her shoulders to the bed. She screamed and her father, sleeping in a room across the hall, responded, frightening the negro away.

7-7-45

Later she identified her assailant as a helper on a truck driven by her husband.

# Eufaula, Mobs Beat Up Negroes After Alleged Rape-Murder

Daily Worker

New York N.Y.

EUFAULA, Ala., July 17.—Chief of Police H. L. McCullochs admitted, when questioned by a Chicago Defender reporter that many Negroes had been beaten by mobs on the streets of Eufaula Saturday night, July 7, following the arrest two days earlier of Peter Paul Hall, 22-year-old Negro farm worker, for alleged rape and murder of a white girl on July 4 and that peaceable Negro citizens had been terrorized during the 10 days since.

Hall is scheduled to go on trial here today under extraordinarily heavy guard. A special grand jury returned true bills charging him with rape and murder in the first degree. He was brought to Eufaula yesterday for arraignment, then returned to Kilby prison at Montgomery.

7-18-45

Hall allegedly confessed to criminally assaulting the girl, Ethel Luck, 18, a cotton mill worker, and drowning her in Little Chewalla Creek on July 4.

Gangs of armed white hoodlums on Saturday night following the alleged crime hunted down, beat and drove all Negroes from the streets of downtown Eufaula. McCullochs said no arrests of the hoodlums had been made because police had been "unable" to identify any of them.

Army military police from Ft. Benning and state highway patrolmen have been conspicuous here for several days. Law-abiding and self-respecting Negro citizens have remained away from the center of the town, especially in the evenings. The whole atmosphere reeks of the lynch spirit so familiar to sections of the South where the Negro is most oppressed.

7-18-45

Eufaula, situated about 22 miles almost due north of Abbeville, is the boyhood home of Governor Chauncy Sparks, who is being appealed to by progressives throughout the United States to force action in the case of Mrs. Recy Taylor. Mrs. Taylor, a Negro, was raped by six white youths at Abbeville more than 10 months ago and, despite thousands of pleas for justice, has still to see her attackers indicted.

Kilby prison, where Hall is being held, is at Montgomery, which is the site of both the state capitol and the Governor's mansion. It was in Montgomery that a young white man last autumn abducted Amanda Baker, a young Negro girl, in an automobile, raped her and then murdered her by pouring hydrochloric acid down her throat.

No arrest has ever been made in the Baker case.

# Alabama Hurries Trial of Negro

Daily Worker

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 16.—The state of Alabama, which to date has failed to prosecute the six white hoodlums who raped Mrs. Recy Taylor, a Negro mother, pressed today for the trial of a Negro accused of rape in Eufaula, Ala. The defendant, Peter Paul Hall, 23, will be tried tomorrow on charges of raping and murdering a 17-year-old white girl on July 4.

New York N.Y.

According to United Press dispatches from Eufaula, a tense atmosphere exists. The UP said that more than 100 armed men, including 60 state troopers, were scheduled to "guard" the courthouse where Hall will be tried.

7-17-45

# State Cops Quell Ala. Racial Clash

New York American

EUFAULA, Ala.—(ANP)—This otherwise quiet little southern town experienced riotous tenseness last weekend as the result of a series of clashes between colored and white.

Twelve state patrolmen were on duty several days and all liquor stores and beer halls closed after the alleged attack-drowning of a 17-year-old white girl by a colored man. The clashes started after the Saturday funeral of the girl.

**Porter Injured**

It was reported that a few hours following the burial a group of white men attacked several colored men. They allegedly caused neck, shoulder and arm injuries to one man and beat up a drug store porter.

7-21-45

Police said the disorders had ended late Saturday, but the tenseness continued over the week-end.

Baltimore, Md.

Arrested in the attack-murded of the white girl was a man listed by police as Peter Paul Hall, 23. He was taken to the state prison at Montgomery for safekeeping after he allegedly confessed the crime.

# Toward Freedom

Daily Worker

THE terror being directed against Negro citizens in Eufaula, Alabama, over the alleged rape of a white girl by a Negro boy is a danger signal which should spur the progressive forces of America to prompt and vigorous action. N.Y. N.Y.

The town of Eufaula, boyhood home of Gov. Sparks, is only about 22 miles from Abbeville, where Mrs. Recy Taylor was raped by six white hoodlums last September. The white rapists of the Negro woman have all been identified, but the Henry County grand jury has repeatedly refused to indict them. There is serious doubt that 18-year-old Peter Paul is guilty of assault on the Eufaula white girl whose body was found in a creek on July 4; yet he was convicted by an all-white jury after 10 minutes of deliberation and sentenced to die on Aug. 17.

Moreover, the Negro youth (who has a good reputation in the community) was tried in a court from which all Negroes were barred, in a tense atmosphere of mob violence, and without the benfit of defense testimony. Incidentally, his age was falsely reported as 23, presumably to "soften" reactions to his being railroaded to death.

Meanwhile, stark terror reigns among the Negro citizens of Eufaula. Many have been beaten by mobs on the streets. Night workers are afraid to report to their jobs. A 9 p.m. curfew has been set for all Negroes (later for white citizens) to be off the streets. Swarms of State police add to the tenseness that has gripped the community. Justly fearful of their lives, scores of Negro citizens are leaving the town daily. 8-6-45

HERE, in Eufaula, we are witnessing the re-emergence of Bourbon anti-Negro terror of a type we have seen before in the South. Recall the long series of bloody racial clashes directed especially against returning Negro veterans after World War I. Recall the wave of lynching and terror to which Southern Negroes were subjected during the depression of the early 1930s—the days of the Scottsboro and Herndon cases.

It is well known that the feudalistic landlords and sweat-shop industrialists who rule the South (and for whom the Bilbos, Rankins, Eastlands and O'Daniels speak) have long been conspiring to "put the Negro back in his place" after the war. Their Ku Klux Klan, Commoner Party and other such outfits are being groomed to serve again as spear-

**Eufaula is a danger signal which America must heed. The threat it symbolizes must be fought directly in each of its concrete manifestations, and its social-economic-political foundations must be destroyed through a constructive program of economic and social security for the masses of Southern citizens.**

LET us wire Gov. Chauncey Sparks, Montgomery, Ala., to stay the execution of Peter Paul until full evidence and a fair trial are possible.

Let us wire the Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., to move quickly to protect the lives and property of Negro citizens in Eufaula. 8-6-45

**Let us also begin to think seriously about and bring forth a program of agrarian reform and industrialization which will unite the rural and urban masses of the South, both white and Negro, in a common struggle for security and against their common oppressors.**

**by Doxey A. Wilkerson**

# Negroes Flee Ala. Town As White Mob Takes Over

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.

By ESTHER COOPER JACKSON

EUFAULA, Ala. — This little town, located some 29 miles north of Abbeville where Mrs. Recy Taylor was attacked last September, is the scene of one of the most serious racial situations in America. 8-11-45

The population was about evenly divided between colored and white citizens up until July 5. Since July 5, when Peter Paul Hall was arrested "on suspicion" for raping and killing 17-year-old Ethel Luck, a white cotton mill worker, Negroes have been leaving Eufaula daily.

It was estimated by some to whom I spoke in Eufaula that as many as fifty Negroes have been leaving nightly. Mattie Mae Robinson, cousin of Peter Paul, reported that her white employer said, "At the rate that colored people are leaving town, there won't be any here soon."

**Sentenced To Die**

I talked with Mrs. Fannie Oliver, aunt of the accused, who has reared him from childhood. The day before I talked to her, Peter Paul had been sentenced to die in the electric chair on August 18. He was sentenced by an all white jury and no Negroes attended the trial. Mrs. Oliver told me her nephew had always been a good boy who had never given anyone any trouble. He had stopped school after the first grade because his mother died when he was two and his father later disappeared.

Her story, confirmed by other Negroes to whom I talked in the colored section" of Eufaula, is as follows:

About 5:30 on the morning of July 5, four policemen came to her home, located on the Country Club road near Eufaula, and asked for Peter Paul. He was immediately put in a police car and whisked away. She has not seen him since that time.

**Calls Military Police**

Mrs. Oliver's first knowledge that her nephew had been accused of rape and murder came from the daily paper which whipped up a mob hysteria against the Negro citizens of the town. A mob of white ruffians was quickly formed which began to attack Negroes in the street. Dr. William McCo[illegible], prominent Negro physician of Eufaula, treated one boy, age 14, who had been beaten by a mob.

Governor Sparks of Alabama whose hometown is Eufaula called in more than 100 highway police and military police "in event of an emergency." The police remained in Eufaula constantly from July 5 when Peter Paul was arrested until his trial on July 17.

**Nine O'clock Curfew** 8-11-45

The entire nation must become concerned about this case and the situation in Eufaula. These are the facts: (1) Negroes must be off the streets by 9 p.m. There is a curfew. (2) Night workers are afraid to report to their jobs; (3) An organized and armed mob is ready to terrorize Negroes "at the drop of a hat;" (4) An 18-year-old youth is scheduled to die on August 17 without benefit of counsel, tried in a court where no Negroes were admitted.

What has happened in Eufaula can happen in any town in the South.

47M-1945 (Whites By Whites) Colorado

7234

# Wife-Shooting, Rape Charged To Veteran

Richmond Times Dispatch 10-20-45

DENVER, COLO., Oct. 19—(UP)—Joseph Desrosiers, 26, a discharged soldier, told police today that after he fired a bullet into the forehead of his pretty young wife he assaulted a barroom pick-up girl in the front seat of the automobile in which his wife was dying.

"Mother-in-law trouble drove me crazy," he said. "I killed her because her mother made life hell for us."

Physicians said Catherine Stone Desrosiers, a bride of only 19 months, probable was unaware before she died of what was going on in the front seat of the automobile. Police held both Desrosiers and Miss Marie Woidell, 26, who had met him in a bar room only a few hours before, and who accused him of rape. Miss Woidell's home is in Atlantic City, N. J.

**Daughter "Unhappy"**

Mrs. W. P. Stone said she had disliked Desrosiers from the instant her daughter brought him home with her last spring.

"Wednesday my daughter confessed to me that she was very unhappy with her husband and feared him," she said. "We discovered he had taken a hammer and a butcher knife from our house and was carrying them around in a black bag."

Stone, the father, said he had told his daughter that her husband had to leave. 10-20-45

Last night Desrosiers telephoned his wife and asked for a rendezvous. Miss Woidell said he telephoned from the bar where he had just met her. Discovering she had an automobile, he wanted to rent it to meet his wife. She agreed to take $10 to drive him.

But on the way, she continued, he confronted her with a pistol, compelled her to remove her coat and dress. Then, she alleged, he raped her. Still terrorized by the pistol, she told police, she drove him to meet his wife. Mrs. Desrosiers, she said, got into the back seat and as they drove along, he shot her. Immediately thereafter, Miss Woidell asserted, she was raped a second time.

# Woman Charges Rapist Killed Wife In Her Presence

Louisville, Ky. Courier-Journal

Denver, Oct. 19 (AP)—Captured while calmly smoking a cigarette beside his wife's body, a young, discharged soldier was held without charge late today in a slaying which police were told was preceded and followed by his raping of a chance acquaintance.

Joseph Desrosiers, 26-year-old former soldier from San Antonio, Tex., was taken without resistance as he sat still armed in the mired automobile which was the reported scene of raping and killing.

**Soldier's Gun Jams.**

When he submitted to handcuffs while ringed by a large posse in a brightly moonlit field near suburban Aurora, Detective Sgt. Leslie Sawyer said the young prisoner cried bitterly:

"I would have been dead, too, if my gun hadn't refused to work again." Sawyer said the black-haired Army sergeant apparently attempted to shoot himself while the possemen closed in under the direction of the young woman who said he raped her twice, but his .32-caliber automatic missed fire.

Partially disrobed and crying hysterically, Marie Woidill, 26, taxied to Denver Police Headquarters late last night where, Sawyer said, she reported Desrosiers killed his bride while she watched and later raped her on the front seat while the body lay on the rear floorboards.

**Victim Was Army Nurse.**

Miss Woidill, who came here recently from Atlantic City, N. J. was being detained as a material witness. She is a former war plant worker.

The dead woman was Catherine Stone Desrosiers, 23, a Denver Army nurse who met Desrosiers, a hospital laboratory technician, while both were stationed at Edmonton, Alberta. They were transferred together to White Horse, Yukon Territory, and were married last January in San Antonio. 10-20-45

Sergeant Sawyer said Miss Wodill gave this account:

She met Desrosiers in a tavern and after several drinks consented to drive with him to an East Denver address. "In the car, he threatened her with a gun, forced her to disrobe and raped her. Then he telephoned his wife and prevailed on her to meet them.

**Forced Her to Drive.**

MARIE WOIDILL

Says Desrosiers killed wife.

He sat in the back with his bride and forced Miss Woodill to drive them to the Aurora area. It was bright moonlight and as she drove the New Jersey woman saw Desrosiers fire a shot into his wife's temple.

"Then he made me drive around for a while—probably an hour," she continued, in her report to police. "Finally he made me stop, undress and he attacked me again. After that the car got stuck in a ditch."

Miss Woidill said Desrosiers got three near-by residents to help her in futile efforts to extricate the auto but they failed to see the body. He put her, partially clothed, into a taxi, warned her not to tell authorities and then, apparently, returned at once to the death car.

JOSEPH DESROSIERS

CATHERINE DESROSIERS

47m-1945

Foreign

# Two Soldiers Charged With Rape in Germany

People Voice
New York, N.Y.

**In a cable to General Dwight G. Eisenhower today, Milton Becker, director of the GI Rights Bureau of the International Labor Defense, urged his intervention on behalf of two Negro Soldiers, charged with "rape" of German women in Germany and Czhechoslovakia respectively.**

The two men are Henry Johnson, of Delta, Miss., and Amos Mills of Barlow Bend, Ala. The former has already been sentenced to die in Germany. The latter faces charges with possibility of a similar sentence, in Czechoslovakia.

"These two men are Negro soldiers," Mr. Becker's telegram to Eisenhower said. "Their cases would seem to fit into a pattern of frame-up, intimidation, terrorization, of Negro troops in every theater of war and at home by white supremacy-minded officers and MPs determined by these means to make sure that Negro troops reentering civilian life should not seek any of that freedom for which they have fought and bled alongside their white brothers in arms.

Claim is made that Johnson was framed by a prejudiced military policeman, the ILD message states.

10-13-45

**Flash**—A radiogram was received at Congressman Powell's office in Washington from the overseas theatre to the effect that the sentence of Pfc. Harrison W. Smith and Daniel Jones of NYC was confirmed but commuted to dishonorable discharge, total forfeiture of all monies and sentenced to hard labor for life. The record of the trial will be examined in the office of the Judge Advocate General in the European Theatre.

# Effort To Continue In Fight To Obtain Miss. Soldier's Exoneration

New Orleans, La.
Louisana Weekly

New York, Oct.. 31.—The sentence of death against Private Robert J. Johnson, Negro soldier from Mississippi charged with "rape" of a German woman, has been commuted to dishonorable discharge and confinement at hard labor for life, the War Department notified Vito Marcantonio, president of the International Labor Defense, today.

11-3-45

Through Milton Becker, GI Rights Bureau Director of the organization, the ILD had asked General Dwight Eisenhower to make a thorough review of the case, in view of information received which indicated Johnson had been framed by "white-supremacy"-minded Military Police.

Efforts of the ILD will continue, it was announced, to obtain further review taking into consideration evidence apparently not in the official record which indicated that Johnson was actually asleep in Army quarters when the alleged offense was committed.

"A thorough examination of the record, together with other evidence, will be made," Mr. Becker said. "The pattern of this case follows too closely that of so many others, in which Negro soldiers have been made victims of 'white supremacy' tactics by military police, not to invite suspicion that this is another example of the same thing.

11-3-45

"General Eisenhower's commutation of the death sentence will be followed automatically by a legal examination of the record by the European Branch of the Judge Advocate General's Office, and a further decision by General Eisenhower as to execution of the commuted sentence."

# Schoolboy Gets 2 Years For Crime Against Child

Nigerian - Spokesman
Onitsha

A boy who was once reported missing faced the Magistrate Court recently for having raped a young girl of seven years' old.

The boy Thomas Mbaogu was sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

11-12-45

The accused pleaded guilty.

Prosecutor C. Agbajor said the accused had been staying in the same compound with the young girl.

The boy, he added, was a student in one of the high schools in Onitsha and expected to finish his course this year.

The prosecution asked the Magistrate to be lenient with the accused in view of his age.

His Worship objected, however, and sentenced the accused as reported.

7237

# Marcantonio Files Plea to Free Negro GI in 'Rape' Case

12-17-45
Daily Worker

A legal brief demanding that the conviction of Robert H. Johnson, Negro soldier from Mississippi for the alleged rape of a German woman, be set aside, has been filed with the Army authorities in Europe by Congressman Vito Marcantonio, president of the International Labor Defense.

Following intervention in October by Mr. Marcantonio and the GI Rights Bureau of the International Labor Defense, General Eisenhower commuted the sentence against Johnson from death to life imprisonment, even before the case was formally reviewed by the Adjutant General's Branch Office in Europe.

**DENIES CASE**

N.Y., N.Y.

Following review of the case by the Board of Review of the European Branch of the Adjutant General's Office, it will come before Gen. McNarney for final decision.

Analysis of the record can only bring the conclusion that Johnson should never have been brought to trial in the first place, and, if tried, that a directed verdict of not guilty be entered, Mr. Marcantonio said in his brief.

There was not even an identification of the defendant by any witness, including the complainant, the brief pointed out, and witnesses who could have testified that Johnson was in his barracks at the time the alleged rape was committed were not called.

A typewritten "confession" which Johnson was said to have signed was introduced in evidence. But when Johnson said that the statement bore no relationship to, and was not a copy of the statement he had written out in longhand, the court-martial did not even inquire into what happened to the original longhand account of his actions on the evening in question.

47m-1945

General

7239

RALPH McGILL

# Ugly, Sordid Stories And the Cold Facts

There is just one way to face any ugly story. That is with facts. 9-18-45
Cold, unemotional facts.

There is only one way to combat evil, untruths and vicious propaganda.

That is with facts. Constitution

There is probably no uglier, more sordid crime than that of rape. The laws and the courts so recognize it. And so punish it.

The Constitution supports the fullest punishment provided by law, the death penalty, for those crimes to which juries and courts attach that penalty. It is the proper penalty. Once man becomes a beast, he is better out of life. Atlanta, Ga.

So much for that.

**Ugly Rumors** There now are current rumors that Atlanta newspapers, and other papers over the state, suppress news of rapes of white women by Negro men.

That is a lie, meanly said.

Nevertheless, the rumors persist.

They go the rounds because many persons want to stir up strife. They also go the rounds because one of Georgia's politicians, who trades in hatred and who uses it as a basis to get votes, every week publishes the lie that rape cases go unreported.

I do not understand such persons, nor the workings of minds such as theirs. I do know this—

Their stories are not true.

I know this because it is possible to get the truth. The truth may be had from the official police records.

Last week I asked for the records.

I have the date, name, address, the suspected person or the convicted, guilty one, in every case of rape in Atlanta in the past ten years.

To date, in 1945, there have been four bona fide rapes of white women by colored men in Atlanta. Two cases have been solved, two have not.

In 1944 there were three such cases; in 1943 there were four, one in 1942, none in 1941, four in 1939, one in 1938, two in 1937, four in 1936 and one in 1935.

So, awful and tragic as the record is, there is no increase in 1945—a war year with greater concentrations of peoples and more accent on violence.

Police are doing an excellent job. It could be better, but we do not have enough policemen or enough public support of police.

There is some danger anywhere, but the records show that a great majority of all such cases occur in crowded, poorer sections of the city. And that makes the record the more tragic.

The records also show the number of reported "attempts," which often may not be separated from attempted burglaries, so police say, is running about the average of any other year, especially war years.

This is a hateful situation, whatever the number of cases, and again we repeat we favor the extreme penalty in all proved cases. Such beasts are not worthy to live.

All we are trying to do now is to pin down deliberately spread rumors.

**Ten Years** Records of the Atlanta police department show 75 bona fide rape cases during the past 10 years, 1935 through 1945.

Of these 75 rapes, 51 were committed by white men and 24 by colored.

Thirty-seven of the attacks by white men have been cleared up; 14 of the colored attacks have been cleared up.

Rapes by white men were the most sordid, nine of these attacks having been made on children under 10 years of age. To continue the ugly story, one was on a child of three and a half years.

This is a bad, ugly, dirty story, indicating that man can be, and too often is, a beast. The tragedy, horror and lasting terror of these victims is hardly to be imagined.

The guilty should pay the supreme penalty.

It is too bad the penalty cannot be more lasting and terrible than merely death.

Police urge unprotected women not to take chances; do not leave the doors unlocked, the windows open.

But the record, the true record, date, names, addresses and reports, are all in my hands, white and colored.

The newspapers are not suppressing the stories.

There is no great number of rapists roaming the city, as the rumormongers have it.

Let us bow in shame that we have what we have.

And stop them by giving all aid to police and courts.

Meanwhile, don't believe lies told to inflame emotions.

47m-1945

Georgia

7238

# Man Acquitted On Rape Charge

The Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

An all white jury acquitted Tommie Lee Johnson of the charge of assault and attempted to rape a white woman in the court of Judge Frank E. Hooper, Jr., Friday.

The plaintiff said that as she walked down the middle of the street on the night of September 25 there was a Negro approaching her and that when he was directly opposite her she crossed over to the left sidewalk, Johnson grabbed her, put his hand over her mouth. She screamed thereby attracting neighbors who came to her. As the light came on the assailant ran through an alleyway and escaped. A few minutes thereafter the neighbors found a Negro man and brought him to the plaintiff who said that he was not the one.

Around 11 o'clcok Saturday morning detectives took two Negro men, one of whom was Johnson, to the scene. At this time the plaintiff was unable to identify either man as the assilant. On the following Wednesday she was taken to the police station to look at the lineup. Previously, the plaintiff had stated that the assailant was a "stout" man. At the lineup she picked out Johnson who is small stature and weighs about 135 pounds. She remarked to the detective that Johnson must know something about it as he had such a sneering grin.

Defense Counsel, Walden called four witnesses. One who lives in the same apartment house with Johnson and his wife testified that she and Johnson's wife returned home from work about 11:30 that Friday night, a few minutes afterward she went over to Johnson's apartment and found him asleep. Another who lives in the same building said that she was on her porch when Johnson came in around 9:00 that night; they spoke to each other. She said further that he did not come out anymore until 6:00 the next morning. Still another witness stated that she saw Johnson turn on the light on in his kitchen and go to his garbage can between 9:00 and 9:30 Friday night, September 25.

Attorney Austin T. Walden represented the defendant.

47m-1945 Illinois

7240

# Dog Police Hoped Would Lead To Rapist Goes Home to Owner

Courier-Journal Louisville Ky

Evanston, Ill., Aug. 18 (U.P.)—A police scheme to catch a rapist by tricking a dog into betraying his master hit a snag today.

Lt. William Calderwood of the Evanston police, who dreamed up the idea, confessed that a slight lack of liaison had left him with the scheme but no dog.

The animal, a large and friendly collie, had been found wandering near the apartment building where a Negro burglar had broken in and raped a teacher last week.

Witnesses last week said the dog looked like one that accompanied a Negro who terrorized Evanston two years ago.

Calderwood reasoned that if the dog were deprived of food for a while he would scoot for home and nourishment when he became hungry enough. A special dog-pursuit detail then would follow the hungry hound—right to his master.

When Calderwood and the special detail went to the dog pound to start the experiment in crime detection today they found a note from Police Chief Carl Ekman, who had left on his vacation. The note said:

"The owner of the dog came to the station and identified the animal so I gave him the collie."

47m-1945 Kentucky

7241

# Woman, 39, Raped, Robbed: Assailant Flees

The Courier Journal

## Thieves Take Shoes And $45 From Youth

Louisville, Kentucky

9-10-45

A 39-year-old woman reported to police that a Negro knocked her down, raped her and robbed her of $10 in cash and a $30 watch at 2:30 a.m. yesterday on Breckinridge between Floyd and Brook. She was treated at General Hospital for body bruises. The Negro escaped.

7242

# Victim of Thug With Toy Pistol, Policeman Fired

The Washington Post
Washington, D.C.
9-11-45

Baltimore, Sept. 10 (AP)—Morris Stein, city patrolman whose woman companion was attacked by a Negro the night of March 7, was dismissed from the police department today after a hearing on a charge of conduct unbecoming an officer.

On the night of the attack, Stein testified, he and his companion were riding in a car and stopped at North and Mt. Royal Avenues. The Negro, armed with a pistol which later proved to be a toy, ordered Stein to drive to Druid Hill Park, took Stein's pistol and made him disrobe to his shorts, forced Stein out of the machine and drove away. Witnesses said he then stopped at a point near Loch Raven boulevard and attacked the woman. 9-14-45

Stein said today that when he was forced out of the car he had no idea the man was going to do anything but take the car.

7243

# Troops On Guard At Negro's Trial

Montgomery Advertiser

LAUREL, MISS., Dec. 3—(AP)—While state troops stood guard with machine guns and bared bayonets, Willie McGee, 30-year-old negro, was arraigned today on a charge of raping a white woman Nov. 2.

There was no disorder. No crowd formed near the courthouse. Montgomery Adv.

The quaking negro muttered incoherently while a plea of innocent was entered on his behalf. Circuit Judge F. Burditt Collins set trial for Thursday at 9 a.m. in the same courtroom.

Fifty troopers under the command of Col. John O. Stagg of Jackson acted under orders from Governor Thomas L. Bailey in escorting McGee from Jackson, where he had been held for safekeeping. 12-4-45

Several armored trucks and jeeps formed the caravan. Sheriff Luther Hill asked troop protection, telling the governor that the situation was tense.

Sheriff Hill reported that McGee has admitted attacking the woman while her husband was asleep in another bedroom.

47m-1945

New Jersey

7244

## GUILTY OF RAPE MURDER

New York Times

### Gardener for Widow, 57, Gets Three-Day Trial in Jersey

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

HACKENSACK, N. J., July 18 —A jury of ten men and two women in Bergen County Oyer and Terminer Court here today found Arthur DeGroat, 34 years old, guilty of murder in the first degree in the rape murder of Mrs. Dorothy Crozier McCready on May 14 in her home in Mahwah, N. J. DeGroat was gardener and handy man for Mrs. McCready, who was 57 and a widow.

Judge Herman Vanderwart did not set a date for sentencing. He had told the jury that neither voluntary drunkenness nor extent of atrocity could be considered insanity, the defense having contended that DeGroat was temporarily insane.

7-19-45

The prisoner, on hearing the verdict, muttered, "I didn't do it." His mother, Mrs. Mildred DeGroat, had to be helped from the courtroom. His wife and daughter attended all sessions of the three-day trial.

7248

# Vet Jailed As Slayer

P.M. 8-4 8-23-45

A 6-foot-2-inch, 200-pound ex-paratrooper, a confessed "ladies' man," is in jail today in Camden, J., as the admitted rape slayer, according to police, of pretty Margaret McDade, whose body was found Sunday in a sewage disposal well in Haddon Heights, N. J.

The accused slayer is Howard Auld, 25, of Bellmawr, N. J., who in civilian life was a dancehall bouncer and who has a police record dating back to 1936. Auld was honorably discharged from the Army July 30 after serving, according to his story, 30 months in the CBI theater, being wounded, and winning the Purple Heart and a Presidential unit citation. His papers show he had been a patient in the Army hospital in Brentwood, N. Y.

Auld said, according to police, he met Miss McDade at a V-J celebration in the Bellmawr firehouse on Tuesday night, Aug. 14, invited her for a walk, made advances which she fiercely resisted, and then beat and raped her and threw

Margaret McDade

her—still alive—into the sewage well.

After Miss McDade was identified police traced her movements, discovered Auld had been attentive to her, and arrested him on his return from Baltimore, where he had fled after the murder.

Arraigned yesterday before Justice of the Peace Samuel De Leece in Camden, Auld was mute, and a not guilty plea was entered for him. He is expected to plead insanity.

# Man Freed Only 3 Weeks Held In Rape

The Courier Journal Louisville Ky.

## Orvel R. Walk, 27, Is Arrested Again

9-25-45

Less than three weeks after his release from Eddyville Penitentiary where he was sent to serve four five-year terms for grand larceny, Orvel R. Walk, 27, was arrested here yesterday on charges of raping and robbing a woman in an automobile here September 15.

With a criminal record dating to 1937 when he escaped from the City Workhouse with three companions, Walks was sentenced for rape and robbery in connection with an assault on a 22-year-old waitress Christmas morning, 1940.

**Violated Parole.**

While awaiting trial he escaped from Jefferson County Jail January 20, 1941, and was captured two days later after a 10-mile automobile chase with policemen which ended when Walk crashed his car into an embankment.

His four five-year terms were to be served concurrently. He was given a life sentence when he pleaded guilty to the rape charge. 9-25-45

After violating a parole from LaGrange Reformatory, Walk was sent to Eddyville wher eihs five-year sentence and some additional time for the parole violation were fulfilled early this month, penitentiary officials said.

The life sentence for rape was set aside in Jefferson Criminal Court as invalid because Kentucky statutes did not provide for the life sentence for rape when Walk was sentenced in 1941, court officials related.

**Companion Also Held.**

Police here said Walk and a companion, Jesse M. Myers, 20, of 2130 Crittenden Drive, took two women in their automobile out Preston Highway September 15, where Walk raped one of the women and took some money away from her.

Myers was arrested and charged with robbery and detaining the other woman.

47m01945 Oklahoma

7245

# MAN HELD ON RAPE CHARGE

Oklahoma City Okla.

TULSA. — Lewis Grayson, 28, is being held in Muskegee for the alleged rape of a prominent Muskogee white girl and the robbing of her companion on a highway. Several weeks ago Grayson was picked up at the Elks Apartment, 10 N. Hartford, by Negro officers as a suspect i several North Tulsa robberies but at that time was turned loose.

Reports have it that detectives Sam Young and Claude Davis, white, made the arrest, but a different story is gathering from authoritative sources on North Greenwood. 10-27-45

The white officers were seen patrolling Greenwood, along with the Muskogee police most of the day Tuesday. Officer Rufus Oliver, off duty and just leaving a theatre was accosted by the patrolmen and a picture of suspect was shown him. Later in the evening, Oliver saw the man and followed him to a recreation parlor but the wanted man became aware that he was being followed and sought to give Oliver the slip. He did momentarily but officer Olliver later discovered him coming out of an Archer street hotel, heading toward the Frisco railroad tracks.

Oliver nabbed him in the dark near the tracks and brought him to another recreation parlor where he summoned the white officers who later were given the credit for the arrest.

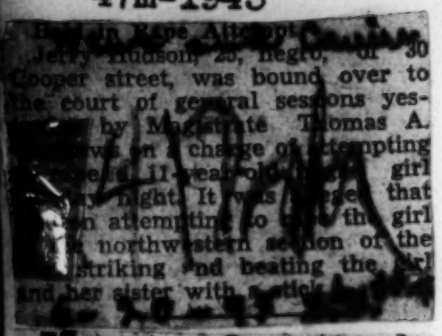
Wednesday officers produced a signed statement by Grayson said he approached the parked car and using the end of a pencil for a gun, robbed the youth of $4.00 and a ring, and other jewelry. He then forced them to drive him further down the highway where he tied the two separately and came to Tulsa.

Detectives were unable, however to force him to admit rape of the girl. They returned him to Muskogee Tuesday night.

47m-1945

South Carolina

7246



Jerry Hudson, 25, negro, of 30 Cooper street, was bound over to the court of general sessions yes- by Magistrate Thomas A. on a charge of attempting girl night. It was that on attempting to the girl northwestern section of the striking and beating the and her sister with

# Florence Convict Admits Raping Elderly Woman

News & Courier
Charleston, S.C.

Florence, July 28.—Special: Sheriff Dan M. Clark said this afternoon that Timothy Parley, negro who was arrested late last night on charges of ravishing an elderly white woman, this morning confessed to the crime. He is held for trial in an undisclosed jail.

Parley, alias Barney Google and Jesse James, is 33 years old. The woman is between 65 and 70 years old, Sheriff Clark said.

The assault took place yesterday afternoon between 1 and 1:45 oclock to the left of the old Timmonsville highway on the north side of Jeffreys creek.

7-29-45

Sheriff Clark and Deputies Allie Kiker and J. Furman Truluck, after an investigation of several hours, found the negro, who was identified by the woman and by several other persons who saw him in the vicinity of the place where the alleged crime was committed. Blood hounds owned by H. G. Hodge, of Dillon, were used during the search.

Parley, serving a 10-year sentence for assault to ravish a negro woman in 1938, was working on the extension of Edgewood drive with another convict. Parley, a trusty, was given permission by the guard to get some water. The guard admitted that he was gone too long and acted in a surly manner most of the afternoon.

The woman ,who was visiting friends here, said the negro caugh her as she walked along the road and pulled her back of some bushes. She said he refused her offer to give him her money.

Sheriff Clark had the help of the city police, the state highway patrol, military police of the Florence army air field and Sheriff Dixon Lee and his men from Dillon.

# Local Woman Retracts Rape Story

Richmond Times-Dispatch
Attacker Was Eluded, She Now Asserts
8-7-45

Detective Sergeant E. A. Kelley said yesterday that the 23-year-old white woman, of Church Hill, who had said she was raped in the Medical College Hospital Friday night, had changed her story and had told him that a Negro attendant seized her and made improper advances, but that she succeeded in getting away from him.

The woman went to the hospital about 10:30 P. M. Friday to have a cut foot dressed, but got into an elevator and was not seen until shortly after midnight, when an interne found her on one of the flights of steps between the third and fourth floors. Both her eyes had been blackened and she was bruised and scratched and she screamed and said a Negro had raped her. Attendants also said she talked incoherently of having fallen down flights of steps and of having run down others.

Until Saturday night, the woman's shoes were missing. Then a hospital engineer found them, along with traces of blood, on the eighteenth floor, which is unused and which never has been completed.

The woman was intoxicated and that a young man who had accompanied her to the hospital also was drunk. They quoted him as saying the woman left him to go to a rest room. A night engineer said he found the young man in a wheel chair just outside the hospital about the same time that the woman was discovered by the interne.

Sergeant Kelley said no arrest had been made in the case and that he had no clue as to the identity of the Negro who the woman said seized her.

# Woman Reports Attempted Rape

Richmond Times-Dispatch
8-17-45 (Va.)

A young white woman living in the 500 block West Franklin St. reported to Police Headquarters yesterday that a Negro entered her bedroom about 10 P. M. Tuesday and attempted to rape her.

She said that she was asleep and was awakened by the Negro, who was leaning over her and holding her arms against her bed. He told her that he would strangle her if she screamed, she related, but said she screamed and kicked the man at the same time. He then fled through a door leading onto a side porch, she said.

The young woman said she ran into the street and reported the incident to a motorcycle police officer and that she and the officer searched the rear of the premises, but the Negro had gone. She said the motorcycle officer told her he would report the case, but no such report was on file at headquarters, and it was not explained why the report was ont made.

ing an investigation and a report by a probation officer. 8-21-45

Samuel J. Brooks, 30, of Fair Oaks, who was sentenced to jail for six months on December 14 on a charge of beating his younger brother, Clifton M. Brooks, with a club, was freed yesterday when Judge Ingram suspended the remainder of his sentence.

In a case heard on appeal from Police Court, Shirley Winston, Negro, 22, of the first block East Marshall St., was fined $100 and costs on a charge of assault and battery. In the lower court the defendant had been sentenced to the State Farm for six months.

# Man Sentenced On Rape Charge

Richmond Va. Times Dispatch

Jesse Mason, a 29-year-old Negro, of the 200 block North Twenty-first St., was sentenced to the penitentiary for 10 years by Judge John L. Ingram in Hustings Court yesterday on a charge of raping a 13-year-old Negro girl.

Mason pleaded guilty to a charge of statutory rape December 4, but Judge Ingram postponed pronouncing judgment in the case until yesterday, pend-

# Forced Into Trailer By Man With Ice Pick, Girl Is Raped

Norfolk, Va. Journal & Guide 12-15-45

PORTSMOUTH—A 22-year old woman residing in the Truxton area was raped in a vacant trailer at the Armistead Trailer Park at 10:35 o'clock on the evening of December 6, by a man, about 25 years of age, who used an ice pick to force her into submission, it was reported at Portsmouth Police Headquarters.

After criminally assaulting the young woman, the man then forced her to give him her wrist watch. The trailer in which the assault was committed was numbered 147.

The young woman was carried to King's Daughters Hospital for examination by investigating police officers. 12-15-45

BEGIN SEARCH

Officers J. W. Moffat and R. W. Braswell handled the preliminary investigation. Later the case was turned over to the Portsmouth Detective Bureau and a search was immediately instituted for the rapist.

Detectives told the Guide that the girl, who "comes from a very good family," had been visiting an aunt in Arcadia Heights and was taking a "short cut" through Armistead Park on the return trip home. 12-15-45

RAINY NIGHT

It was raining and the man approached her on the short street which connects Arcadia Heights and the trailer project.

Armistead Trailer Park, a Federal emergency housing project, now has many vacant units. After the war ended, the trailers were no longer rented. Families moving out left permanent vacancies.

## CONDUCT UNBECOMING A LAW OFFICER

7252

# Mobile Cop Fired For Raping Negro Woman

Chicago Defender

By JOHN LeFLORE
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

MOBILE, Ala. — Mississippi's Senator Theodore Bilbo's campaign to uphold Dixie's "white supremacy" was blemished this week.

Evidently disagreeing with the poll-tax senator's ideas against intermingling of races, police scout officer L. L. Davidson of the Mobile police force was arrested Thursday for the rape of a Negro woman.

Earlier, the white policeman had been dismissed from the force by Police Chief Dudley McFayden for "conduct unbecoming an officer."

Davidson's victim was Mrs. Rosa Shaver, 24, who lived alone with two sisters and a cousin at 958 Lyons street. He had noted the women lived alone when he searched the house for illegal whiskey two weeks previous.

Mrs. Shaver told of the harrowing experience which began at 3 a.m., Monday morning when Davidson knocked on the door.

"Police. Open the door!" shouted the uniformed officer.

After being admitted he walked through the house, flashing his light on the girls in the bed in their night attire.

Davidson told them that one of the girls would have to go to the police station to be fingerprinted, and wanted to know who was the oldest.

Mrs. Shavers admitted that she was the oldest, her sisters Pearl and Henrietta Strawbridge being 22 and 15 years old respectively and her cousin, Aurelia Beckham only 16.

Davidson led the puzzled girl to his scout car and drove off in the opposite direction from town.

"Upon reaching a spot shaded by trees, he stopped the car and demanded that I go with him," stated Mrs. Shaver, who recently came here from Mt. Vernon, Ala.

"I told him that I did not want to, so he put his arm around my neck and said he would kill me," she continued. Then she told how the officer made her get on the back seat of the police car and attacked her.

He compelled her to return to the front seat, drove out a highway for several miles and attacked her again.

She said that he told her that she had better not say anything about it to anyone." Davidson put her out of the car near the Providence hospital in the western part of the city, and she had to walk almost two miles to her home, the victim declared.

In the meantime the other girls had been to the home of another sister, Mrs. Dorothy Kiel, several blocks away, and told her about the officer having taken Mrs. Shaver to the police station, as they assumed. Mrs. Kiel called the police station and learned that no one by the name of Rosa Shaver had been docketed.

When Mrs. Shaver returned to the house and told her story, Mrs. Kiel reported the matter to Chief of Police McFadyen, and had a warrant issued for Davidson's arrest.

Davidson was bound over to the grand jury under a bond of $750. A white prominent woman told the Defender that it was "a shame and a disgrace." She further stated that if a Negro man had been implicated with a white woman, mob violence would probably have settled the incident on the spot.

ed spots and attacked the young woman at each, then put her out of the car more than a mile from her place of residence and threatened to do her bodily harm if she mentioned the affairs to any one.

The Defender learned this week that Mrs. Shavers' relatives have been approached for the purpose of having a settlement made without further "embarrassment" to Davidson.

# Dixie Cop, Ousted In Rape Scandal, Arrested Again

The Defender

By JOHN Le FLORE
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

MOBILE, Ala.—A white ex-policeman, discharged from the Mobile force recently after allegedly raping a young Negro woman, was in court again last week on a charge of beating an elderly Negro woman.

The former lawman, L. L. Davidson, was fined $25 and costs after he had accused the unidentified woman of aiding two other younger women in his robbery. Davidson claimed he lost $54 cash and a check for $874.16 in the holdup.

Complainant in the case was Stellinos K. Paparizos, also white, in whose Dauphin street bakery the assault took place. Davidson was conveniently charged with "disorderly conduct" rather than assault.

Davidson was dismissed from the Mobile Police Department several months ago after he had been charged with having raped Mrs. Rosa Shavers, a young colored woman of Mt. Vernon, Ala.

Knowing that only Mrs. Shavers and three other young women were residing at a house on Basil street, Davidson is said to have entered and taken the former away in a police scout car under pretext of carrying her to the police station to be fingerprinted. Instead he is said to have driven to two secluded

7253

# Nab Gunman In Rape Of N. Y. Negro Maid

Chicago Defender—Ill.
3-31-45

By EUGENE C. ZACK
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

SPRINGFIELD, Mass.—The long arm of the law has reached into this city to snatch a swaggering, sneering gunman charged with raping a Negro maid in New York City in November. Arrested by New York City detectives, the ones who broke the famed "Murder, Inc." gang, Thomas A. Scarnici, 34, tough, convicted lawbreaker, and father of two children, pleaded not guilty to a New York bench warrant charging him with being a fugitive from justice.

But behind the fugitive warrant was as sordid a tale as ever printed in a pulp magazine.

Scarnici, brother of an electrocuted murderer, and four other men, all armed, allegedly entered a Brooklyn mansion last Nov. 28, tied up all of the occupants and servants, including a comely, unnamed Negro, ransacked the house and stole $70,000 worth of jewelry, silver, and other valuables.

Then, while the helpless servants and owners watched, and while his cohorts covered them with sub-machine guns and pump guns, and while he himself held a revolver in his hand, Scarnici allegedly raped the defenseless Negro girl while she was bound hand and foot.

3-31-45

New York police, in a nationwide manhunt, rounded up Scarnici's comrades—two of them in New York City, two in California. The Negro girl promptly identified them as the ones who menaced the servants and other occupants of the house while she was being raped. From photographs in the rogues gallery in New York, produced after the Springfield man was involved by his comrades, the raped girl identified Scarnici as her attacker.

James Island, sentenced to 25 years at hard labor on a charge of attempted rape of a white woman, a charge termed a "deliberate frameup" by progressive forces defending the young man.

Leaders are pointing to Middleton's heavy sentence on a charge of attempted rape, while the officer was released under a small bond on the charge of committing rape.

4-13-45

Last year another city officer, attempting rape on three young colored women, was sentenced to serve 75 days in the county jail.

## Atlantan, 67, In Rape Trial

ATLANTA—(ANP)—Although three members of an all white jury wanted to send him to the electric chair, 67-year-old [illegible] Dillard, charged with criminal assault on a young white woman last fall, won a mistrial Tuesday when nine jurors held out for more than nine hours for his acquittal.

It was Dillard's second trial. He won a new trial when the state supreme court overruled the death sentence given him last September, the court holding that "it was not reasonable to believe" he had committed the offense because of his age.

The 17-year-old victim of the attack reiterated her positive identification of Dillard, while the defense through the testimony of more than a dozen witnesses sought to prove that he was more than 10 miles from the scene of the crime.

The aging defendant was returned to the Fulton county jail where he will continue to be held without bond pending a third hearing.

Since the DeKalb Superior Court session officially ended Friday, the [illegible] cases of rape against the two other white young men, Ralph Nor[illegible], of Tucker, and Ralph Gos[illegible], of Kirkwood, will be [illegible] next term, probably in June.

Berry stated that he was attacked with his girl friend on a road near Tucker, Georgia, the girl forced to accompany them to a log cabin and

Lamar Morgan, a white sta[illegible] Berry's attorney, [illegible] Station, County. The G[illegible]

## S. C. Policeman Accused in Rape

CALL-Thursday
4-5-45 MD.

CHARLESTON, S. C. — (ANP) —A white city police officer was released Wednesday under a $500 bond on a charge of criminally assaulting a 15-year-old colored school girl, it was learned from Negro leaders here.

The young victim is said to have identified the accused positively from a lineup of three city officers shortly after her charge of having been violated was substantiated by medical examination.

The incident occurred last Tuesday night at the time a general citizens' meeting was being held for the purpose of fighting through the case of Arthur Middleton of

## Free White Youth Of Attack Charge

3-17-45

The girl said the sailor raped her in DeKalb county and that they all raped her and forced her to commit sodomy on them in Gwinnett County.

# First Of Three White Youths Facing Trial On Rape Charge

Atlanta World G2

## Two Others To Face Jury In DeKalb Court

3-16-45

The first of three white youths accused of rape and assault on a 17-year-old colored high school girl and her companion went on trial Thursday in DeKalb Superior Court. The trial was in session early last night as Judge James C. Davis attempted to end the first phase of the case .

The white youth on trial was Howard Lamar Morgan, a sailor a Howard Lamar Morgan, a sailor at the Naval Air Station. Two other white youths, Ralph New, of Tucker and Ralph Garza of Kirkwood, are yet to face charges in the Christmas eve crimes which shocked the entire community. A large number of women members of the Georgia Interracial Committee, all white, joined with several of the Negro members of the committee in recently condemning the alleged acts of the young white men.

**BEAT COMPANION** 3-16-45

According to a statement of Walter Berry, Jr., of Decatur, he and his girl friend were on a road near Tucker, Georgia, Christmas eve night when the three white youths drove up and after assaulting him about the head and body, forced the girl to accompany them to a log cabin and wooded section in DeKalb and Gwinnett counties where they raped the girl and forced her to commit sodomy on them.

Berry remained in Grady Hospital several days for treatment of severe lacerations about the head and body, while the girl victim was treated for lacerations, bruises and shock by a private doctor. She furnished county police officers of DeKalb and Gwinnett counties with descriptions of the assailants, along with information given them by Berry and several days later the three white youths were arrested, identified by the victims and indicted for criminal assault on the girl, sodomy on her, assault with intent to murder Berry and theft of his automobile. The youths are said to have previously admitted all the crimes except the criminal assaults. All were allowed bonds by Presiding Judge Davis.

**PRESS ORDERED OUT**

Before the beginning of the trial proper, Judge Davis made a special rule allowing fifteen Negro citizens and fifteen white citizens of DeKalb county to remain in the courtroom during the trial. The list of Negro citizens was submitted by Professor Charles Clayton, an attorney and principal of Herring Street (Decatur) School. Judge Davis refused to allow members of the press to remain in the courtroom to cover the trial.

3-16-45

Attorneys William Schley Howard and Lawrence W. Camp are associated in prosecuting the case along with Solicitor General Roy C. Leathers.

## FOUR WHITE SAILORS RAPE NEGRO GIRL DEFENSE WORKER

Miami Whip

A most lurid story of rape came from the lips of a 20-year-old Negro girl when she related how four white sailors forcibly took her into their car and carried her to Little River where the atrocious raping occurred.

According to the girl's testimony, she was waiting for a bus on the corner of Second avenue and 62nd street, after getting off from work at the National Bedding Company, 7610 N. E. 4th court about 12:30 Tuesday morning. A black, four-door sedan drove up and two white sailors jumped out grabbing her by head and feet and ordered her into the car. 6-23-45

The car was driven to a wooded section on the other side of Little River. The sailors beat and choked her unmercifully all the way. She said at least two of them ravished her while the other two held and took turn in the crime.

The girl fell unconscious and came to the next morning and walking down the highway was picked up by two Negro women who took her to the justice of peace in North Miami. From there she was taken to the Naval dispensary for examination and then to Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Barely able to walk, with finger clutch marks on her throat, the girl wept as she related the story of her torture, and how local naval authorities tried to discredit her claims. 6-23-45

In checking up on the story, Lt. Carver, acting public relations officer for the naval authorities stated that doctor's examination had shown that she had not been raped. Jackson Memorial Hospital refused to give report on the case. Dr. Tarthelione, medical examiner for the Naval dispensary, who made the first examination said he could not give out any report on the case. 6-23-45

The young lady said that when she was taken to the Naval dispensary and shore patrol for examination, the officer in charge told her that there was nothing they could do if she didn't know the names of the sailors.

She said that she could identify the rapists.

The Secretary of the Navy in Washington has been notified of the general unrest among Negroes over the incident and has been advised to force local investigation. 6-23-45

47n-1945

Rape- Recy Taylor

7254

# For Equal Justice

The Miami Whip Florida 1-13-45

One of the most revolting crimes committed in years was perpetrated in Governor Sparks' state, Alabama, where white supremacy is supreme with justice, fairplay and moral honesty playing second fiddle especially in this particular case since it involves the raping of a Negro serv iceman's wife by six hoodlums. It is indeed strange that the people of Alabama who believe as their governor. Chauncey Sparks, that they are superior people, have not lifted one finger to see that justice was done or even offered the serviceman's wife aid or assistance in crime com mitted by six white hoodlums.

The brief facts behind the case are these: In Abbeville Ala., on September 3, Mrs. Recy Taylor was on her way home from church with friends when she was kidnapped by armed hoodlums. They carried her out of town, stripped her, each one raping her. Early in the morning they dumped her, naked and blindfolded, on a street corner. The attackers were identified. One confessed, but local authorities refused to prosecute the criminals. Why? Mrs. Taylor is a Negro. Her assailants are white. Abbeville is typical of those parts of the South where "No Negro has any rights a white man is bound to respect." In reality it really shows up that part of the South that is as brutal and arrogant as the Nazi's and Japs in believing they are a superior people. It takes little discernment to see that such peaple are not superior but are inferior because they fear justice and fairplay. Their feeling of insecurity and lack of moral conscience drive them to oppress minorities whom they are afraid to compete with on the same equal level, politically, economically and socially. It is most difficult for Alabama white supremacists to impress the minorities that they are a superior people when they act so inferior.

Mrs. Taylor's case is not merely one of an individual crying out for justice. Fascist attacks like these are blows against our national unity. The breach that threatens is insufferable. Therefore we join with the National Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor and the Transport Workers Union, Local 206 of New Orleans in demanding equal justice and the prosecution o f the Abbeville rapists.

In a petition sent to Governor Sparks by the union it said in part: "The apparent negligence of the local law enforcement officer in this affair can have only one result, namely, to encourage lawless elements in other parts of our Southland to attempt similar acts. The affect of such lawlessness on the morale of our men in the armed services, nearly one million of whom are Negroes, cannot but be bad. The least we can do for our servicemen and women is to assure them that while they are fighting our country's battles against sinister powers, fighting against enemies who encourage and condone the type of thing that was perpetrated against Mrs. Taylor, is that their families back home are safe.

In the name of all that is decent, in the name of the Democracy that we are committed to perserve, we, 500 members of Local 206, in meeting assembled, appeal to you Governor Sparks, to launch an immediate and thoroughgoing investigation into the facts of this case and to carry out punitive measures as your findings may indicate. We feel confident that effective action on your part will discourage any further incidents of this kind in your state as well as other parts of our country." — Lousiana Weekly

# Open Drive to Aid Ala. Attack Victim

Baltimore Md. Afro-American

NEW YORK (ANP)—Henrietta Buckmaster, author of "Deep River," and the Rev. B. C. Robeson, pastor of Mother AME Zion Church, were named co-chairmen of the permanent committee for Equal Justice for Recy Taylor here this week. 1-6-45

Seventy-five organizations, including thirty-seven trade union bodies, were represented at the conference that launched a national program to call attention to the Taylor case, raised $300 on the spot, and new Recy Taylor committees are being formed in every state.

The governor of Alabama is at the moment feeling pressure from all over the land calling on him to bring to justice six white men of Abbeville, Ala., who on the night of September 3 raped Mrs Recy Taylor, 22-year-old mother in that town.

# National Group Formed To Get Action In Taylor Case

Memphis Tenn. World

## Delegation To Call On Gov Chauncey Sparks

1-9-45

NEW YORK — (ANP) — Henrietta Buckmaster, author of "Deep River," and the Rev. B. C. Robeson, pastor of the Mother Zion A. M. E. church, were named co-chairmen of the permanent Committee for Equal Justice for Recy Taylor, here this week. Seventy-five organizations, including 37 trade union bodies, were represented at a conference that launched a national program to call attention to the Taylor case.

1-9-45

The governor of Alabama is at the moment feeling pressure from all over the land calling on him to bring to justice six white men of Abbeville, Ala., who on the night of Sept. 3, kidnapped and raped Mrs. Recy Taylor, 22-year-old mother of that town. Mrs. Taylor was on her way home from church when the attack occurred.

**CALL ON GOVERNOR**

The Alabama section of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare was preparing to send a delegation to the governor this week to demand that the six men, who are known, be brought to trial and punished according to Alabama law. 1-9-45

Miss Buckmaster, in accepting co-chairmanship of the national committee, said:

"The south suffers from a great many diseases, one of the most virulent being the Cult of the White Woman. This cult has been the basis of considerable lynch legislation. The effect has been the complete degradation of the southern white woman's dignity. She is beginning to resent and hate the crimes that are committed in her name. If the white woman suffers from this cult, you can imagine the burden it places upon the Negro woman." 1-9-45

than it might be traveling in Europe underground. You had to make your way from one person to another, the right persons in order to be received and told the truth." 1-9-45

Recy Taylor committees are now being formed in every state. The conference raised $300 on the spot to advance its work.

Assemblyman Hulan Jack, secretary-treasurer of the committee denounced the attack on Mrs. Taylor as an act worthy of a fascist setup, and declared that the American system, and declared that the fight against Alabama is this case was

Eugene Gordon, investigator for the committee, who recently interviewed Gov. Chauncey Sparks of Alabama, and secured from him assurance that the case was being investigated, told the dramatic story of how he made his way to Recy Taylor's cabin in the outskirts of Abbeville. 1-9-45

"Getting there was no easy matter. Not only was it necessary to travel by underground methods, but I had to make my way from one person to another, the right persons in order to be received and told the truth." 1-9-45

KAISES $300

# Harold Preece

Chicago Defender Ill.

**"Southern Chivalry" Vs. Recy Taylor**

AS A SOUTHERN white man, I'd like to be on the jury that will eventually try the white hoodlums who raped Mrs. Recy Taylor of Abbeville, Ala. 1-13-45

I'd like to vote to break their damned necks.

I'd like to bury them under 13 feet of Alabama quick lime on January 13 when this column will be published.

I'd like to bury in the mud of the road that box of rat poison called "Southern chivalry" — that chivalry which butchers Negro men accused of raping little white hussies but which regards Negro women as the pawns of "Southern gentlemen" from the beer dives and the pool halls. 1-13-45

I wish that the federal government had some authority to step in and inflict the punishment of an outraged nation upon these no-count loafers—too lazy to work and too cowardly to fight — who committed an unspeakable crime upon the young wife of a Negro serviceman.

I keep on thinking of two towns over there in Alabama. One is Scottsboro and the other is Abbeville.

**Remember Scottsboro**

THEY TRIED to burn nine Negro boys Scottsboro on a charge of "rape" way back 1932. They said that the nine black boys, lock up in Scottsboro, had assaulted two white gi known in every mill town of Dixie as ladies w could be had for two-bits or a shot of rot-g

But they've done nothing to the gang of whi men who raped a God-fearing Negro wife a mother. The nine Negro boys, picked up Scottsboro were innocent, and the poll t plantocracy of Alabama knew it. The white me still at large in Abbeville are guilty, and t plantocracy knows that too.

The two white women at Scottsboro we riding on a freight train, plying their trade fro one town to the other, when they accused tl black boys of "raping" them. But the little N gro woman, mother of a child, wife of one our country's fighting men, was returning fro services at the Rock Hill Holiness church wh she was set upon by white thugs who shou be exterminated and thrown out to the buzzar for the good of the South and Southern woma hood.

**White Man's Lust** 1-13-45

RECY TAYLOR cries for justice in Alabam — and not only Recy Taylor but every othe Southern Negro woman forced to serve a whit man's greed in the cotton patch or a white man lust on a lonely road.

The Scottsboro boys cried for justice in Al bama — and not only the Scottsboro boys bu every other Southern Negro boy forced to serv a white man's greed on the chain gang or a white man's lust in the electric chair.

For the old dying South holds its thin lease on life only by devouring black flesh—the flesh of black men done to a roast over a lynch pyre and in the electric chair, the flesh of black women torn and desecrated along the worn-out old roads of the worn-out old South.

Recy Taylor cries for justice in Alabama as did the Scottsboro boys. The nation heard the Scottsboro boys, heard them for seven long years when the shadow of the roasting chair hung over not only the lives of nine young men but over the lives of the young New South.

Before this year is over, I hope to get over to Abbeville to pay my profund respects to Mrs. Taylor. I hope to tell her that her tragedy has begun to be considered by a whole nation as its tragedy; that the young living South has taken up her case and made it a major point of attack in that never-surrender fight to free our homeland from this body of death.

I want her to know that the nation realizes it cannot stop at protection of Southern womanhood against lust. I think that it will go on from there to protection of Southern womanhood against greed because the victims of greed always become the victims of lust. 1-13-45

The nation will demand that social security protection be given the thousands of Southern Negro and white women who work in the rich folks' fields and the rich folks' kitchens.

Let me pay reverent tribute to Recy Taylor, a Southern lady because the only real ladies down here come from the people.

## THE STORY OF RECY TAYLOR

# Alabama Has No Race Problem, Claims Official

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Ill.

(Last of a Series)

By EARL CONRAD

(Defender New York Bureau)

NEW YORK—The attorney general of Alabama is a medium-sized, solidly-set man, with dark hair, round face, and thick eyebrows. I found him cooperative and pleasant. William N. McQueen was quite willing to answer whatever questions I put to him on the Recy Taylor rape case.

At first he told me that publicity wouldn't be very helpful in the case, that it would be much better if northern newspapers didn't touch it. 3-31-45

Then McQueen said something that hit me between the eyes:

"We have no Negro problem," he said blandly.

I stared at him, unable to ask any question or make any reply. It had been my understanding—and still is—that the South essentially has **no other problem.**

**Youth Enters Army**

Then I questioned him about the boys involved in the rape of Mrs. Taylor. Talking to him I constantly used the term "alleged attack." Although there was no doubt in my mind, and he knew it, that I considered the attack real and confirmed.

I asked him what kind of families the youths came from.

"A few come from better families," he said, "and others are town roughnecks."

"Is it true," I asked, "that one of the boys has entered the navy?"

"No," he replied, "it's the army. One of the boys, the oldest, has entered the army."

The boy is Joe Culpepper, aged 19.

The father of one of the attackers, I learned, manages the local power company. 2-31-45

Then I asked what the state was doing about the case and what we might expect would be done.

**Grand Jury Probe**

"I can tell you," he said, "that perhaps we will have another Grand Jury investigation. I think I will have something definite for you about February 15."

(The attorney general's office ultimately made good this promise. It was about the middle of February when the attorney general's office announced that a special grand jury session had been held and no indictment returned against the gang for the second time.)

McQueen told me that his offices paid little attention to northern pressure.

"We proceed on all our cases according to Alabama law and apart from any outside influences."

Then I asked him how he happened to get started on an investigation of this case and he admitted that it had been brought to his attention by a northern newspaper.

**Bring Out Mrs. Taylor**

I asked Attorney General McQueen what might happen if I sought an interview with Sheriff Gamble of Henry county. I thought McQueen's reply was formulated rather dubiously:

"I don't think anything would happen to you," he said, "but I just don't think the sheriff would say anything."

It was Thursday night, Jan. 11, when Mrs. Taylor was brought out of Abbeville. Two Negroes drove to the town, and returned with Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and their daughter. We placed them in another city.

Subsequently, Mrs. Taylor returned to Abbeville for the second grand jury hearing. I think that was very brave of her.

On the same day a historic little meeting was held in Montgomery. It was a civil liberties meeting in behalf of equal justice for Mrs. Taylor, and it was held in the Dexter Avenue Baptist church, which is about three blocks away from Governor Chauncey Sparks' offices.

Twenty-four attended that meeting, I was told—I was not there—about 60 per cent of whom were Negro. There were prominent local whites and the leading Negroes. The attorney general was invited but declined to attend. Representatives were there from Mobile and Birmingham, the session therefore having a state-wide character, and I am sure that it was one of the few state-wide civil liberties conferences ever to be held in Alabama. 3-31-45

The Recy Taylor case was discussed. Some took the position that it would be wise for Alabama to see that justice was done in the episode before the whole country was aroused—if it was not even then too late.

**Invite Northern Aid**

I am told that E. G. Jackson, the militant Negro leader, made the most interesting observations. He said to the liberal gathering:

"If the state of Alabama does not handle this case in the way it ought to, if the right-minded citizenry of the state do not demand an indictment in this situation as they should, then I can tell you this: **that the Negro people will welcome and invite all of the assistance that they can get from the North.**"

On Friday, I had a terrific problem.

Young Joyce Lee Taylor was now in Montgomery, temporarily, and needed to be made at home. She and her parents were being cared for by friends in the Negro community.

**Buys a Doll**

I met the child that day in the offices of the Alabama Tribune. She was very gay and handsome in a little green dress and quite interested in Jackson's typewriter.

It was evident that what was indicated as an immediate need was a great big doll, and I headed at once for the business district to see what Montgomery had to offer. I was chagrined to find both white dolls and black ones, but I supposed I shouldn't have been.

I was afraid to get Joyce Lee a white doll for fear I should be thought to hold supremacist notions, and I hesitated about getting her a black one lest I be suspected of indulging in some Jim Crow. Fortunately I spotted a great big black and white teddy bear—which made everybody happy, especially Joyce Lee.

7255

# Ft. Monroe Won't Give Up Soldier

Journal and Guide

## Woman Attacked By White GI In Early Morning

Norfolk, Virginia

By ALBERT L. HINTON

PHOEBUS, Va. — The full powers of the office of the President of the United States, the overall authority of the Secretary of War, the aid of Gov. Colgate W. Darden Jr., and the assistance of the congressman from the First Congressional District of Virginia, have been invoked by civil authorities of Elizabeth City county in an effort to regain custody of a white soldier at the Fort Monroe Coast Artillery School who is accused of attempted rape upon a 26-year-old colored waitress.

These developments in the sensational case which has had the effect of creating a wide chasm between civilian authorities of Phoebus and Elizabeth City county and Army officials at Fort Monroe, were disclosed on Tuesday of this week in a statement issued by acting Commonwealth Attorney H. Clark Thompson. 11-3-45

Mr. Thompson told the Journal and Guide, in an exclusive statement, that the soldier in question, Joseph Rizzo, is still being held by Fort Monroe officials despite the best efforts of Phoebus authorities to regain his custody.

**TURNED OVER FOR HOSPITAL TREATMENT**

Rizzo was turned over to Army authorities for hospital treatment early on the morning of Oct. 2 after he had been beaten up by two men who came to the assistance of the young woman the soldier had attempted to attack.

The soldier was surrendered voluntarily to MP's from Fort Monroe by Officer Norman Turner of the Phoebus Police Department who saw how badly he needed hospital treatment, but since that time Fort Monroe officials have consistently refused to turn him back to Phoebus police, it has been charged.

**In his statement to the Journal and Guide Mr. Thompson said that the accused soldier has not been court-martialed as promised by Army authorities, nor have they given any substantial reason for their refusal to surrender him.**

The acting commonwealth attorney said that he has enlisted the aid of Governor Darden in the matter and the Governor has, in turn, brought it to the attention of Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson. In addition, Representative S. Otis Bland, of Newport News, of the First Congressional District, has agreed to take the matter up with President Truman personally.

Mr. Thompson also revealed that he has seen a letter, under the signature of Congressman Bland, in which it was revealed that an unnamed brigadier general has been assigned by the War Department to confer with Fort Monroe officials in regard to the impasse.

**NO CHARGE PLACED AGAINST PAIR**

Meanwhile, it has been learned, no formal charges have been placed against Clyde Johnson and Chris Dixon who allegedly beat up the soldier following the attempted attack.

With reference to a claim that the victim of the rape attempt had refused, on advice, to accept or honor a summons from the Army court to testify before a court martial for Rizzo, Mr. Thompson denied that he had so advised her, but expressed the belief that someone had warned her to testify only in a civil court.

The young woman, a waitress in a County street restaurant, lives on Fulton street, it has been learned.

Governor Darden indicated last week that he would act in the case just as soon as the case record was in his hands. The record was immediately dispatched to Richmond, Mr. Thompson said.

**CASE OF STATE SOVEREIGNTY**

Mr. Thompson, describing the impasse as simply a case of sovereignty of the state, said that it was the first time, to his knowledge, that Fort Monroe officials have taken the stand of refusing to surrender a soldier wanted for prosecution in the civil courts. He added that since the war is over he could see no reason for the position taken by the Army. 11-3-45

**It was explained that since the accused soldier is in custody of the Army, an order for him to be surrendered will have to be issued by either the Secretary of War, or the War Department itself.**

The alleged attack on the woman occurred at the corner of Armstrong and County street about 12:15 a. m., on Oct. 2, while the victim was walking down County street with another woman. She was said to have been grabbed by a soldier and dragged from the sidewalk where the rape attempt occurred.

The other woman ran for help and Clyde Johnson and Chris Dixon came to her aid and proceeded to beat up the soldier before military police arrived on the scene to take him into custody. Officer Norman Turner, of the Phoebus Police department, arrived subsequently and the soldier was turned over to him by the MP's.

**SOLDIER TAKEN TO HOSPITAL**

Seeing that the soldier was badly beaten, the officer suggested that the MP's take him to the hospital, observing that the accused GI could be retaken into custody later when he was sufficiently recovered.

Sergeant J. L. Craigs, of the Phoebus police, said that a Fort Monroe captain refused the following day to give him custody of the soldier, and the military refused to release Rizzo until evidence substantiating the charge could be placed before them.

Although this has been done, Sgt. Craigs said, the Army has steadfastly refused to surrender the prisoner.

# Soldier Indicted For Rape Attempt

Journal & Guide 12-15-45

Norfolk, Va.

HAMPTON—An Elizabeth City County grand jury, on which a colored resident served, on Dec. 3, returned an indictment against Joseph Rizzo, white soldier attached to the Fort Monroe Coast Artillery School charging him with attempted rape on a 26-year-old colored waitress.

The offense is alleged to have occurred at the corner of Armstrong and County street, Phoebus on Oct. 3, last.

Rizzo, who is 23 years old, was ordered held for the action of the grand jury when arraigned before Trial Justice John H. Bowen on Friday of last week.

The accused soldier had been in custody of military authorities since the alleged rape attempt occurred, and they had refused for a full month to release him for trial in a civil court. 12-13-45

Although authorities at Fort Monroe at first indicated that he would face a court martial, this action was never taken, as far as could be learned.

**FINALLY SURRENDERED**

Rizzo was turned over to military police by a Phoebus police officer for hospital treatment after the former had been badly beaten by two colored men who came to the rescue of the waitress. He was treated at the Fort Monroe hospital and after a battle between military and civilian authorities for his custody, he was finally surrendered.

**Serving on the grand jury which indicted Rizzo Monday which returned a total of 29 indictments representing the second largest number in the history of the Elizabeth County Court, was S. T. Smith, well-known Hampton mortician.**

47n-1945

North Carolina

7256

# Young White Farmer Held In Attack Case

DURHAM, N. C.—Convicted of assault upon a colored girl by Judge R. W. Johnson Jr., in Recorder's Court in Apex, N. C., and jailed without bond, Bruce Coombs, young white farmer, on appeal has been bound over to the November term of Superior Court.

He is the son of Bruce Coombs of Morrisville. The complainant is Miss Mattie Robinson, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Robinson, brought about the white man's arrest.

**THE ALLEGATION**

It is alleged that on Sept. 13, Miss Robinson and Coombs were on the same bus coming from Raleigh, and when the girl got off the bus at a point near her home Coombs also left the vehicle, overtook and attacked her after she had left the main highway.

Following Coombs' conviction in Recorder's Court, Robert A. Cotton, defense attorney, noted an appeal and the case came up for preliminary hearing in Superior Court in Raleigh, Oct. 1, after which the defendant was bound over to the November term.

**NAACP TO AID**

Considerable interest has been manifested in this case. The local branch of the NAACP has established a fund and thru its president, Brooks Earl, plans to assist the Robinson family, which is highly esteemed here, in the prosecution of the case.

# White Man, First in N.C., Gets 15 Years for Assault

RALEIGH, N.C.—Bruce Combs, 27, became the first white man in this State to be sent to prison for attempting to assault a colored woman when he was given 10 to 15 years in Central Prison by Judge R. Hunt Parker in Wake Superior Court on Dec. 13.

Combs' trial for criminal assault was in its second day when his attorney, Leon S. Brassfield, admitting that the testimony against his client "is too strong," entered a plea of guilty to attempted assault.

The chief witness in the case was Miss Mattie Robinson of Apex, the victim, who charged that the attack, during which she was choked, took place on the afternoon of Aug. 20 in a tobacco field near Carpenters.

**Backed by Second Farmer**

During her testimony, she stated that following the assault she went to the home of another white farmer, Joe Batchelor, whom she asked to take her to Apex to get a warrant against Combs.

However, he advised her to get her brother to take her because he was busy. Both Batchelor and the brother, Clifton Robinson, substantiated her testimony whele a second brother, Linwood, said that he was cursed when he questioned Combs.

**Aided by Process Servers**

Although a question was raised over the existence of two warrants, one signed on Aug. 21 and the other on Sept. 17, it was ended when M. R. Mills, Apex process officer, said that he did not believe Miss Robinson understood the first warrant which charged simple assault.

Asked by defense counsel to make the sentence as light as possible because Combs is the sole support of his aged parents, Judge Parker accepted the plea but, nevertheless, meted out the 10-15-year sentence.

47 - 1945

Pennsylvania (Beginning Sept. 1945 Rape Cases Whites by Whites Negroes by Negroes Separated)

7257

# Two Veterans Held in Attack On Woman

Times-Dispatch Richmond Va. 9-15-45

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 14—(UP)—Two discharged soldiers were arrested today on charges of criminally attacking a 20-year-old hospital technician after offering to play "Good Samaritan" and drive her home following theft of her handbag by a purse snacher.

The former servicemen were identified by police as Paul Neff, 31, Philadelphia, night club entertainer, and Charles Belefonte, 28, Wilmington, Del. The alleged victim was Catherine Albert, Philadelphia.

Miss Albert told police Neff and Belfonte found her crying near City Hall after a Negro stole her handbag, emptied it of a small purse containing $6 and fled. She said she told the two men what happened and they offered to drive her home.

**Drive Toward Outskirts**

Instead of taking her home, the hospital attendant said, they drove toward the outskirts of the city. She said Neff sat in the back of the car with her, threatened to kill her and then attacked her. Belefonte then attempted to attack her, Miss Albert said.

The men returned to central city, where they were arrested after the girl's screams attracted two policemen.

Miss Albert was taken to Pennsylvania Hospital for treatment of bruises of the arm and face. Neff was booked on a charge of aggravated assault and battery and rape. Belefonte was accused of aggravated assault and battery and attempted rape.

# Man Accused Of Raping Woman Here

Richmond Times Dispatch Richmond, Va. 11-16-45

Walter C. Tarpley, 23, of the first block East Main St., was arrested yesterday on a charge of raping a 25-year-old married woman who reported that he attacked her in his automobile Thursday night on Monument Avenue.

The woman said she left her place of employment about 8 P. M. and was waiting at Third and Grace Streets for a Floyd Avenue bus when Tarpley stopped his car and asked her if she was going West. She said that another couple was in the car and that she accepted the offered ride. Prior to that night she did not know Tarpley, she said.

Instead of taking her home, the woman said, Tarpley took the other couple to Grayland Avenue and let them out. She said she did not notice the address.

Then, she said, Tarpley drove to Monument Avenue, where he ripped off some of her clothing and raped her. After raping her, she said, Tarpley beat her face.

The woman said she managed to get out of the car and walked home. 11-18-45

She furnished police a description of Tarpley and the license number of his car. Captain O. D. Garton, head of the Detective Bureau, said Tarpley's home was watched and his arrest resulted.

In Police Court yesterday, Tarpley's case was continued until November 20 and his bond was set at $2,500.

47n-1945

Tennessee

7258

# Police Rape Case Before Grand Jury

Memphis World Memphis Tennessee 9-4-45

Attorney General Will Gerber will personally direct the state's case against two former Memphis policemen if the Shelby County Grand Jury indicts them Tuesday (today) for alleged criminal assault on two Negro girls, according to accounts carried in a local daily newspaper. Mrs. Gerber was quoted as saying:

"I've just returned from a short vacation and have been reading the reports and statements concerned in the case against former Police Officers B. J. Lewis and J. W. Torrey, who are alleged to have assaulted two Negro girls the night of August 3.

"This case will be presented to the grand jury next Tuesday (today) and if an indictment is returned, I will personally prosecute these men to the fullest extent of the law.

"This matter is of such a nature that in my opinion it should be aired out fully in open court and passed upon by twelve fair jurors."

The two accused men, arrested Friday, August 24th are presently at liberty under cash bonds of $5,000 each. Both officers resigned from the police force after the two girls accused them of criminal assault.

a movement to collect funds to help the girls' mothers to raise enough money to prosecute the case; the hiring of a local lawyer to investigate all angles of the case; the allocation of a substantial sum by various civic and welfare organizations to defray expenses; and the determination among many groups to get an understanding from the Shelby County Attorney-General regarding his office's attitude toward prosecuting the case on the basis of the letter of the law. 9-22-45

Scores of local citizens have offered money to help prosecute the case. They include white and Negro Memphians. One of the major problems has been the naming of a definite place to which to send voluntary funds.

This problem was solved last week when it was announced that all persons desiring to donate funds to the prosecution of the case may send same to the NAACP at 546 Beale Avenue. The money will be used to help defray attorney's expenses in fighting the case; and in lending aid to the distitute mother of eight children, who is the mother of one of the outraged girls.

# Plans For Prosecution Of Rape Case Outlined By Many Civic Groups

Atlanta Daily World, (Ga.) 8-22-45

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (SNS) — What the Negroes of Memphis and other right-thinking citizens feel should be the correct action to be taken in the case of the two Negro girls who were so bestially outraged several weeks ago by two local policemen was given impetus least week with several developments.

Among the follow-ups to a case which has centered criticism on local Negro leadership as well as on the local police department were the facts that: several Negro ministrial alliances have passed resolutions condemning the action of the two officers in raping the girls; the organization of

Further developments in the prosecution of the case are expected to be announced by Friday of this week.

# Policemen Indicted For Assaults On Young Girls

The Informer Huston, Texas 9-15-45

MEMPHIS — (ANP)— The Shelby County Grand jury recently returned true bills against two former police officers accused of criminally assaulting two colored girls. Only one of the girls, however, was listed as prosecutrix.

**The indicted men, who until a few days after they were accused by the girls of rape were uniformed policemen of the Memphis department, were listed as J. W. Terrey, 27, and B. J. Lewis, 26. Both are out on 5,000 bond, being held to the state.** 9-15-45

Atty. Gen. Will Gerber last weekend announced that he would personally prosecute the case in the event the men were indicted. He later discouraged the idea of solicitation of funds for prosecution of the officers with the statement:

**"I want the public to know that my office has ample funds to investigate and prosecute this case. We are doing everything possible to assemble the facts, and if the grand jury indicts we will prosecute those men to the fullest extent of the law. Therefore, contributions to some organization to push the matter along will avail nothing.**

"There has been no delay since the facts were presented to my office. Commissioner Boyle said he had been working on the case from the very beginning." 9-15-45

The Memphis office of the N. A. A. C. P. had been soliciting funds to prosecute the case, and expressed the opinion it entered the case after no action was taken by police officials. A lawyer had been hired to prosecute the accused.

**The former policemen are accused of having picked up the girls early on the morning of August 2, in their squad car, taking them to a secluded spot and criminally assaulting them. One girl charged that she was raped, the other that she was forced to an "unusual submission."** 9-15-45

Both ex-officers denied the charge when confronted with the girls several days later. However, they resigned from the police force the following day, Aug. 5.

# Accused Policemen To Trial Nov. 4th

The Memphis World Memphis, Tenn.

J. W. Torrey and B. J. Lewis, ex-police officers charged with criminal attack on two young race girls, will go on trial in Criminal Court next Monday, November 5th, Attorney Geenral Will Gerber announced Saturday of last week.

Mr. Gerber added that he would direct personally the prosecution.

Denying the charges as set forth in the indictment, the two men have pleaded not guilty, and expect to be represented by counsel. Torrey has obtained the legal services of A. E. Weinstein, and Lewis will be represented by Harry U. Scruggs.

The alleged attack took place while both defendants were members of the Memphis police force.

One of the girls told police officials that she and her companion were stopped by the policemen at Poplar and Cleveland on the morning of August 3rd around 1:30 shortly after they had left their work in a cafe. Instead of taking them to police headquarters, the girls declared that the officers swung their squad car east on Union, extended, and attacked them at a secluded spot.

Both girls gave identifical reports of attacks to the press and later to representatives of the local NAACP Branch.

The officers denied the charges from the outset, but immediately resigned from the police force. After charges were pressed against them, they were ordered arrested, and a Shelby County Grand Jury indicted the men September 4th. They are at liberty under bonds of $5,000 each.

MEMPHIS BLUES FOR BLUECOATS

# Two Teen-Age Girls Raped By Crumptown Cops

Chicago (Sat.) Defender

MEMPHIS.—Rape of two teen-age Negro girls by two uniformed city policemen last week revolted all Memphis—a city long hardened to shocking tales of intimidation and cruelty to its colored citizens.

The two girls were picked up by the white officers in a squad car as they waited for a street car at 1:30 a.m. last Friday and they were forced to submit to the men.

Their parents told the story to the Press-Scimitar, Memphis daily, which declared the details were "so revolting that they shocked even veteran newspapermen."

Following a police investigation of the attack, Police Chief Carroll Seabrook indicated no action would be taken against the guilty men pointed out by the girls, because their "identification was not certain." 8-19-45

After leaving work at Fred's Cafe, 1351 Poplar street, where they are cooks, the girls said they were accosted by the two officer in a police car.

The men ordered the girls to get into the car because they "had been loitering on the corner for an hour and a half." The young girls protested that they had just gotten off from work and showed their health cards.

However, they were forced into the car and driven out Union Extended. One of the mothers said that her daughter was, taken out of the car and criminally assaulted on the grass beside the squad car. The other mother said her daughter was forced by the second officer "to an unusual submission."

About an hour later the car drove up to one of the girl's home and the two girls jumped out, said one of the mothers. She told how they ran into the house crying. The men had threatened death if they told what had happened.

Their employer, Fred, accompanied the girls and their mothers to police headquarters and related the story to Police Chief Carroll Seabrook.

The girls were locked up in a cell while police started their investigation. They were released the following Monday after repeated questioning. One of the mothers, a widow and mother of eight children, said she was permitted to see her daughter only a few minutes from Friday to Monday. 8-18-45

The health card belonging to one girl was found in the squad car, police admitted.

"The two girls were taken into a room where a lot of police officers were lined up and were told to pick out the guilty men," one of the mothers reported.

"When the girls entered the room they were told by Chief Seabrook that if they picked the wrong men they would be put in jail.

"Both girls walked up to the same men, but they were not allowed to point out the officers. When I asked the chief what was going to be done to the officers for treating my daughter that way, he told me the girls were not certain in their identification and for me to take my daughter, go home with her and keep my mouth shut."

Police officials warned the girls not to discuss the matter with anyone. Both mothers said the policemen identified by the girls denied the attack to their superior officers.

7259

## Three Whites Allowed Bonds After Raping Negro Girl

DECATUR, Ga.---In an unprecedented action, Superior Judge James C. Davis on Tuesday permitted low bonds to be posted by three white youths, under indictment for two capital offenses against a young Negro couple.

The prisoners, one of them a sailor, were given their freedom under a total of $6,000 in bail, after admitting to police officers they had severely beaten 20-year old Walter Berry Jr., stolen Berry's car and forced his 17-year-old girl companion into a deserted cabin six miles away, where they criminally assaulted her six times and then forced her to sodomy on them. Both rape and sodomy are capital offenses in Georgia and the customary procedure is not to allow bail.

WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT

Negro leaders were pointing to Judge Davis unheard of action as another example of the one-sided justice meted out to Negroes, asserting that had the victim been white and the attackers Negro, no bond would have been allowed.

Names of three white suspects were given by police as Ralph New of Tucker, Ga.; Ralpa Goza of Kirkwood, Ga., and Seaman 1/c Lamar Morgan, who is stationed at the Atlanta Naval Air Station.

The trio was indicted on charges of rape, sodomy, assault with intent to murder and larceny of an automobile.

WAYLAID BY HOODLUMS

The couple was waylaid by the white hoodlums as they were en route to a church on Christmas eve. After beating and stabbing Berry, leaving him unconscious and bleeding in the middle of a country road, the men drove off with the youthful girl companion, whom they forced to remain with them six hours, before setting her free on a highway several miles from the nearest residence."

Pittsburgh Courier --Penn. 2-10-45

## Louisiana and Texas Groups Back Mrs. Recy Taylor Fight

Daily Worker N.Y. 2-12-45

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 11.—Another step forward was taken here recently in the Recy Taylor case, when the Peoples Defense League, militant Negro organization, met with Negro and white unionists of Louisiana and Texas for a discussion of issues affecting progress in the South.

Henry Hirsch, president of Local 206, Transport Workers Union, CIO, outlined the facts of the Taylor case, and showed that the safety and dignity of all women is involved in the demand for justice for this wife of an American farm worker. The meeting dispatched a wire to Gov. Chauncey Sparks, of Alabama urging prosecution of Mrs. Taylor's attackers.

R. R. Grovey, president of the Third Ward Civic Club, Houston, Tex., and an organizer for CIO Steel Workers, endorsed this action.

"Don't be fenced in!" the Houston leader advised his New Orleans audience. "Economically and politically, what is going to be done for the Negro people is going to be done, basically, by the Negro people. Let's not wail about the little Negro fence inside the white one."

Freedom is not achieved by sitting down, he said, and those who teach citizens how to vote must teach in saloons as well as in churches.

Both the Peoples Defense League of New Orleans and the Third Ward Civic Club of Houston are organizations set up primarily to solve local problems (paving, lighting, park space, discrimination, local defense programs) not handled by such national organizations as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Urban League, both of which do good work in these cities.

The local organizations have served as an aid and sometimes a spur to the national organizations in the communities, reaching additional members on such national matters as the vote, unionism, and the like. Now all organizations are coming together, with the unions, on the broad issue of the Taylor case, brought to the fore through the unifying action of the Southern Negro Youth Congress.

Thus the South is building, from the bottom up, solid foundations of new freedom.

## Abernant Negro Held After Woman Stabbed Criminally Attacked

Birmingham News 2-12-45

### Matron From Tuscaloosa County Victim; Brought To Hospital In Bessemer

John B. Smith, Negro, of Abernant, was being held in Jefferson County Jail Monday charged with stabbing and criminally assaulting a Tuscaloosa County woman at her home between Abernant and Caffee Junction Saturday afternoon.

Tuscaloosa County Sheriff R. G. Parker said Smith was arrested late Saturday night after having been captured by a resident of Abernant and turned over to state officials.

Deputy Sheriff W. F. Wright, of Tuscaloosa County, said he was told a Negro went to the home of the white woman, wife of a commissioned deputy in Abernant, which is in Eastern Tuscaloosa County, about 2:30 Saturday afternoon, wanting to buy some eggs.

* * *

DEPUTY WRIGHT SAID HE WAS TOLD the Negro criminally attacked the woman and then stabbed her with an ice pick. The Negro, according to the deputy, fled after the woman had attracted neighbors with her cries.

Smith, according to Wright, was arrested Saturday night after a resident of Abernant had held him. The Negro was about to board a Birmingham-bound bus at the time, Wright declared. 2-12-45

Tuscaloosa County Solicitor Edward de Graffenried told The Birmingham News in a long distance telephone conversation Monday that he had questioned Smith in the jail here, but that the Negro had made no statement. Solicitor de Graffenreid declined to say if Smith had been identified as the Negro committing the attack.

Solicitor de Graffenried said he could not reveal the grounds on which Smith was being held charged with the crime. "We want to see that he gets a trial," the solicitor told The News.

The woman was brought to a hospital in Bessemer for treatment, Deputy Sheriff Wright said, but her condition was not thought to be serious. 2-12-45

Bloodhounds from Hale County and the State Convict Camp at Tuscaloosa were put into use in the brief search for the Negro, reports from Tuscaloosa said.

## Montgomery Men Investigates Attack Cases

Alabama Tribune Daily Worker N.Y. 2-10-45

### Montgomery Newspaper Editor Heads Group Inquiring Into Criminal Assault Of Abbeville Woman By White Man

A committee of responsible local citizens interested in the prosecution of a group of white men who brutally assaulted Mrs. Recy Taylor, 30, in Abbeville, Ala., recently has been formed with E. G. Jackson, editor and publisher of the Montgomery Alabama Tribune as chairman. Known as the Equal Justice Committee, this group has met with Attorney General McQueen at the State Capital here. Mr. McQueen received the chairman and assured them of his full support in presenting this case to the Grand Jury in an effort to bring about an indictment of the men guilty of this outrage. Mr. Jackson also pointed out another unpleasant incident in a nearby county in which the sheriff has been accused of taking two Negro women out of jail and whipping them. A "White" informant gave Mr. Jackson this news and asked that something be done about it as situations of this type was not doing anything to bring about better racial relations. The Attorney General took note of this matter and promised to investigate.

## Mrs. Recy Taylor's Kin Bare Abbeville Terror

Daily Worker N.Y. 2-6-45

By EUGENE GORDON

Why did the rapists of Mrs. Recy Taylor at Abbeville, Ala. a much worse stone at our good fellowship.

I certainly believe we have a m
f Henry County.
lved crimes and
lves whether we
nry's affairs.
RICHARDSON.

record than the good people of Her
So please look over our unsolved
crime records, then ask ourselves
have any right to meddle in Henry's

H. J.

Star Route, Mulga, Ala.

OUR OWN AFFAIRS

To the Editor of The News:

Birmingham News

I am a regular subscriber to your paper and enjoy reading the same, but had a somewhat different opinion to your editorial regarding the "Henry County Case." I do not agree with you in meddling in another county, city or state case. Let us eliminate the many evils in Jefferson County before we start telling other people how to run their business. That is entirely up to the people of Henry County and does not concern Jefferson County or any other county, state or nation. 2-28-45

Do you recall that is what got us into this terrible war today—that's our so-called F. D. R. meddling and trying to attend to other nations' and other people's affairs. Let us take an example of that great error made in 1941 and let us attend to our business and let the other fellow attend to his affairs. Or in other words, let us first keep our own house clean before telling the other fellow how he must keep his. Or let him that is without fault cast the first

Ala., five months ago believe they could get away with it? Because, said Mrs. Idabelle Owens, of Abbeville, yesterday, they had seen:

- Wesley Johnson, Negro, taken from the Abbeville jail, six years ago, and lynched for "insulting" a white woman.
- Peter Johnson, Negro soldier, returned to his Abbeville home after two years overseas beaten nearly to death.
- Fred Ward, Negro, 16, run out of town by a mob because he defended two small Negro girls from white hoodlums.
- Lee Ward, Negro, 17, beaten by a mob because he supposedly stole $5.
- Robert Fagor, Negro youth, threatened with lynching and run out of Abbeville because, it was rumored, he had "insulted" a white woman. The "insult" was based on gossip that the woman was friendly to Fagor.

## The Henry County Case

Last Fall a Negro woman named Recy Taylor undertook to interest the authorities of Henry County in her complaint that she had been criminally assaulted by a group of white boys. She got little satisfaction, though the matter was brought to the attention of the October Grand Jury, which took no action. Thereafter representations were made to Governor Sparks, who was sufficiently impressed to direct the attorney general to make an investigation. This was done, with the result that the attorney general felt it incumbent upon him to ask the Circuit Court judge to call for a special Grand Jury. Again there was no indictment. Word comes from Montgomery to the effect that, though both the governor and the attorney general thought there was sufficient evidence in hand to make this a grave case, the state has exhausted its resources with respect to having a hearing in court.

Under Alabama statutes a felony can be tried only after an indictment by a Grand Jury of the county in which the offense was committed. There is no higher authority. So if Henry County grand jurors decline to indict, however grievous a violation of law may have taken place and however much proof there may be in hand against the violators, the matter rests there. According to reports from Montgomery, one of the young fellows under scrutiny has confessed being a party to the attack, while most of the others insist that the woman's role in the affair was that of a prostitute.

* * *

One does not have to feel that these boys are guilty to be convinced that the way the case now stands is wholly unsatisfactory. The people of Henry County should realize this. They should realize that what has been done on their behalf is highly unsatisfactory from any valid point of view. They should realize that not to bring to trial such a charge will not end the matter. Already, this ugly business has drawn national attention. Already a committee headed by Henrietta Buckmaster, the novelist, is arousing public opinion throughout the country. Henry Countians may consider this an interference in their local affairs but they ought to know by this time what agitation for justice to disadvantaged persons can do to bedevil the life of this state.

But from the standpoint of their own welfare, the people of Henry County owe it to themselves to leave nothing undone which can lead to a fair trial. Since Governor Sparks and Attorney General McQueen have so indicated, it must be taken for granted that a trial is in order. If Henry County persists in rejecting such advice it will be taking the line not of good citizenship and respect for law but of reliance upon a technicality to prevent an adequate public hearing of these charges.

If the accused boys are not guilty, the way to make sure of that is to give them their day in court.

The fact that a Negro woman is the accuser makes it essential that there be an adequate disposition of the case, unless we are to understand that it is because of her color that her charge is being brushed aside. Let us hope that, with continued support from Montgomery, another Henry County Grand Jury will be wise and brave enough to do its duty.

# WHITE WOMAN HANGING AROUND BLACK AND TAN JOINT CLAIM FIVE YOUTHS RAPED HER IN TENNESSEE TOWN

Knoxville, Tenn. (ANP)—Five Negro boys are awaiting their fate in the "little Scottsboro case" here for the alleged raping of a white women. Names of the boys are David Lawless, Daniel Butler, Herbert Stephenson, John Billingsley and Tommy Rawlings.

The white woman, Annie Bell Morgan, accused the boys of raping her on October 9th, when she left a black and tan tavern. Miss Morgan, 19, is a native of Sweetwatre, Tennessee, and is described as attractive and well dressed.

The five youths carried her to the rear of the sterchi skyscraper building and assaulted her on the night of October 9th, she charges. But according to the testimony of a colored maid of one of the smaller hotels here, she has solicited male companions for the young white woman at the rate of $10 per date. The colored maid testified that she received $4 of every $10 date she solicited for Miss Morgan.

The all-white jury and the overpacked court room heard defense attorney Herbert Atkins, one of the boys' four defense lawyers, say, "These are not colored boys, they are American citizens." Then putting the jury on the spot, he continued:

"I am glad that here in this state 'color' is not tried in our courts. Here we recognize neither race, color nor creed, Jew nor Gentile. This country is fighting now that democracy, our way of life, may be preserved to all here, regardless of race, color or creed, and that the state has not proved its case against these boys. We ask that you do your clear duty and free each one of them."

According to the testimony of the physician who examined Miss Morgan, there were no perceptible bruises or scratches anywhere on her body and she admitted under questioning that she had been sexually intimate with men besides her husband.

While the entire history of the case has been unique, the local press has been ultra conservative in reporting it. No effort has been been made to appeal to racial animosity by either side and the trial scene is one of calm and sobriety.

# FLIMSY BONDS REQUIRED OF THREE GEORGIA WHITES CHARGED WITH RAPING YOUNG NEGRO GIRL

## Beat Girl's Companion, Steal Car and Six Assaults Made in Lonely Cabin

## TORTURED SIX LONG HOURS

DECATUR, Ga.—(ANP)—In an unprecedented action, Superior Judge James C. Davis Tuesday permitted low bonds to be posted by three white youths, under indictment for two capital offenses against a young Negro couple.

The prisoners, one of them a sailor, were given their freedom under a total of $6,000 in bail, after admitting to police officers they had severely beaten 20-year-old Walter Berry, jr., stolen Berry's car, and forced his 17-year-old girl companion into a deserted cabin six miles away where they criminally assaulted her six times and then forced her to sodomy on them. Both rape and sodomy are capital offenses in Georgia and the customary procedure is not to allow bail.

Negro leaders were pointing to Judge Davis' unheard of action as another example of the one-sided justice meted out to Negroes, asserting that had the victim been white and the attackers Negro, no bond would have been allowed.

Names of the three white suspects were given by police as Ralph New of Tucker, Ga., Ralph Goza of Kirkwood, Ga., and Seaman first class Lamar Morgan, who is stationed at the Atlanta Naval Air Station.

The trio was indicted on charges of rape, sodomy, assault with intent to murder and larceny of an automobile.

The couple was waylaid by the white hoodlums as they were on route to a church on Christmas eve. After beating and stabbing Berry, leaving him unconscious and

7260

# SIX MINUTE TRIAL CLEARS WHITE MAN ARRESTED FOR RAPE

Black Dispatch

A DeKalb county jury took less than six minutes Friday to acquit Howard Lamar Morgan, a white sailor, of charges that he with two other white youths had criminally assaulted a comely 17-year-old school girl on Christmas eve last year. 3-31-45

Morgan was indicted in two counties on two counts of rape as well as assault with intent to murder. The state charged that Morgan, Ralph New and Ralph Goza after severely beating the young girl's companion, Walter Berry, Jr., attacked the girl in DeKalb county, then taking Berry's car forced the girl to accompany them to a lonely, deserted cabin in the woods of neighboring Gwinnett county, where they took turns in attacking her. Afterward, the indictments charge, they forced the girl to commit sodomy.

The defendants were to be given several trials, Morgan's being scheduled first. Trials of the other two are scheduled for the next term of court in June, the same month all three must face trial in the Gwinnett superior court before Judge Clifford Pannor.

The youthful victim of the attack identified Morgan as one of her assailants and described how she was forced to get in the back seat of the car while the other two youths threatened her life with knives. Berry, she told the jury, had been thrown unconscious in a ditch.

Judge James C. Davis, who presided over the trial, refused to permit newspapermen in the courtroom during the hearing, although consenting to let 15 "representative" whites and 15 Negroes to hear the evidence. The jury, in the face of Morgan's admission of guilt, as related by arresting officers, quickly returned the acquittal verdict.

# Carolina Cop Held In Rape Of Girl, 15

Chicago Defender

Charge Dismissed

CHARLESTON, S. C.—(ANP)—A white city police officer was released Wednesday under a $500 bond on a charge of criminally assaulting a 15-year-old colored school girl. The young victim is said to have identified the accused positively from a lineup of three city officers shortly after her charge of having been violated was substantiated by medical examination. 4-14-45

The incident occurred last Tuesday night at the time a general citizens' meeting was being held for the purpose of fighting through the case of Arthur Middleton of James Island, sentenced to 25 years at hard labor on a charge of attempting rape on a white woman, a charge termed a deliberate "frameup" by progressive forces defending the young man.

Leaders are pointing to Middleton's heavy sentence on a charge of attempted rape while the officer was released under a small bond on the charge of committing rape. 4-14-45

# Two White GI's Held For Rape

Philadelphia Tribune

HAMLET, N. C.—(ANP)—Two white soldiers are being held at Camp MacKall, N. C., near here on charges of criminally attacking Mrs. June Knight of Raleigh, a passenger in a Pullman compartment on a Seaboard Airline train Wednesday.

Mrs. Knight, it was learned, was allegedly attacked by the two soldiers, identified as T/5 Charged with the attempted rape of Dewey R. Tenty of Camp But-of a 55-year-old Columbus man, and that part of her bridgework and two had been pulled out by one of the same the men. When found by police, and while she was in a hysterical condition, herdom. She was carried to the city officers hospital.

Minio of Fort Benning, Ga., as J. Goodwin, white soldiers, were ner, N. C., and S/Sgt. Edward tron, Rudolph Canta and Edward urday. According to police, she was enroute home from Ft. bound over to the grand jury time they attacked the woman. McClellan, Ala., where she had Wednesday. Judge Clifford Pannor set bonds at $2,000 each. The soldiers are alleged to have approached the woman as The bus driver and a small been visiting her husband. she alighted from a suburban bus with

Whites Held In Rape
COLUMBUS, Ga. (ANP)

# 2 White GI's Held for Attack in N.C.

HAMLET, N.C. — Two white soldiers, accused of criminally attacking Mrs. June Knight of 61 Haywood Lane, Raleigh, while en ruote home from Fort McCleland Ala., March 14, are being held by military authorities at Camp Mackall.

The soldiers, identified as T/5 Dermo R. Tentry of Camp Butner and S/Sgt. Edward Minie of Fort Benning, Ga., and Mrs. Knight are reported to have been the only passengers in the car attached to Seaboard Air Line Train No. 12.

Although Mrs. Knight repeatedly insisted the men had attacked her, train officials took no action until the flagman, a Mr. Palmer, convinced them her story was true. Mrs. Knight was returning from a visit to her husband at Fort McClelan[illegible]

The crime was committed reportedly somewhere en route between Atlanta and Hamlet after the soldiers broke into her compartment, one soldier attacking the victim while the other held a gun on her, she charged.

The flagman of the train was attracted to the car by Mrs. Knight's screams, but was unable to come to her defense because he was unarmed. His report to Conductor Norris who took over the train at Monroe, however, caused the latter to call in police.

New World A Coming

# Whites Urge Prosecution Of White Attackers Of Negro Girl

ATLANTA. —(ANP) —Vigorous and unrelenting prosecution of three white youths accused in the kidnapping and rape of a 17-year old colored school girl, is being demanded by a large number of white women, members of the Georgia Interracial commission.

**Petition Sent**

The group has sent a petition to both Solicitor Gen. Roy E. Leathers and Judge James C. Davis of the Stone Mountain circuit, urging them to make certain that justice is carried out, expressing the belief that such a move would "better racial relations in Georgia."

**The three suspects, all under indictment on capital crimes of rape and sodomy, were released under bonds totaling only $6,000. They are scheduled to be placed on trail around March 15. All 3 of the men have been identified by the girl victim and her companion.**

The attacks occurred Christmas eve night as the couple was enroute from church. Waylaid on the road, the girl was abducted, her companion severely beaten, and she was forced at the point of a knife to accompany them in an automobile to a lonely shack deep in the woods of an adjoining county. All three of the men had relations with her, the girl said, later forcing her to commit sodomy.

Slated to face trial are Ralph New of Tucker, Ga., Ralph Goza of Kirkwood, Ga., and Harold Lamar of Tucker, who is a sailor, assigned to the Atlanta Naval Air station.

NATIONAL ROUNDUP

# 3 White Ga. Youths Beat Boy, Rape Girl

DECATUR, Ga.—(ANP)—Members of the Dekalb county grand jury Wednesday were charged with delaying tactics by 20-year-old Walter Berry Jr., the victim of a brutal beating at the hands of three white youths, who later kidnapped his comely 17-year-old companion, carried her to adjoining Gwinnett county where they took turns criminally assaulting her.

Berry, as the result of the beating, remained in the hospital for 10 days, and still bears marks of the slugging.

Three white youths, one of them a sailor, are being held in the Dekalb county jail without bond as suspects in the case. The high school girl victim of the attack, whose condition was so critical for two weeks little hope was held for her recovery, has already identified the trio police admit.

The crime occurred, Berry said on Christmas eve as he and his girl companion were en route to a party. The three white men, he said drove up in a sedan, two of them hopping out and grabbing him by the arms.

Carrying him to the side of the road, they began beating him, while the man wearing a Navy uniform, held the girl to keep her from screaming. Leaving him unconscious by the side of the road, the trio carried the girl four miles away to a vacant house in Gwinnett county, where the three took turns having sexual relations with her.

The girl was picked up on Christmas day as she staggered out of the house and fell to the highway. Her clothing was covered with blood, police reported.

**New Rape Case Reported in Alabama**

For the past few months there have been a number of rape cases involving Negro women and white men. The first of these cases was in Evergreen, Ala., around the latter part of August, 1944, at which time two young colored girls were raped by several white men. The only punishment given these men was a fine of five hundred dollars.

The next case was at Abbeville, Ala., where another young colored woman was raped by six white men September 3, 1944. Nothing was done about this case either, until several weeks ago when it was reported to the governor by an interested person from New York. Consequently, the promise was made to give the case a thorough investigation.

There has been a third case, which is the first for 1945 in this section of the country. On January 3, 1945, a young married woman, Doris Ester Nickson, age 16, who lives in the rural section two miles from Geneva, was on her way to work. While crossing a railroad bridge, Mrs. Nickson was raped at the point of a gun by a youth of about 20 years of age. He warned her that he would kill her unless she promised not to tell.

Mrs. Nickson was employed by Dr. H. K. Tippins of Geneva. When she arrived at Dr. Tippins home, she told the doctor's wife about her terrifying experience. Mrs. Tippins notified the sheriff, but was refused any assistance whatever.

This case was brought to the attention of the Dothan branch of the NAACP which plans to make a thorough investigation of the facts involved. They will seek the protection of the law to bring justice to the guilty maniac.

It has become increasingly dangerous for colored women to be out on the public streets and highways without being afraid of being held up or raped by young white hoodlums. These men are apparently taking advantage of the war hysteria to force their beastly desires upon innocent women. The Dothan branch of the NAACP is determined to do everything in their power to bring an end to the free lancing of these criminals.—Mr. L. R. Gaskins, Pres., Dothan Branch NAACP, Dothan, Ala.

# 9-Year Old Girl Alleges Rape By White Man

NORFOLK — A nine-year old colored girl of South Norfolk was snatched from the streets in that city Saturday afternoon between 1 and 2 o'clock, carried into a secluded spot and raped by an unidentified white man, according to a report filed by the child's parents with the South Norfolk police department.

The girl reported that while walking on the streets, the man, described as being between 55 and 60 years of age, accosted her and told her if she would go with him to pick some flowers, he would give her ten cents. When she refused, the girl said, the man grabbed her up bodily, carried her into nearby Cascade Park where he committed the sexual act. He then further brutalized her by committing an act of sodomy, she told her parents.

She gave the police a good description of her alleged attacker, describing him, in addition to his apparent age, as having a foreign accent, very tall and of small features.

Police are conducting a search for the culprit, and state that they are on the trail of a suspect.

His description has been broadcast to surrounding cities, and the man wanted, police believe, has been seen in a nearby town.

## A White Man's Word Against A Negro Woman

Slight Press-Tech-Okla.

This month delegates from the United States will sit with confrees from many nations to discuss world morality and more decent relationships among humankind. Without disparaging this program, which we highly endorse, we believe America is due for a plunge into domestic house-keeping if our professed morality is to carry with it the touch of sincerity. 4-14-45

Only last week we note the daily papers in Oklahoma City detailing on front pages the stabbing of a white Sailor by a Negro girl, and the later sentencing of this girl to a term in the penitentiary, with sentence suspended. In none of the articles carried in the daily press was there any attempt to tell the thousands of readers who read this story the circumstances leading up to this near-fatal stabbing, or the reason why a white judge would suspend a two-year sentence. Surely there were some extenuating circumstances that should be brought to light and that people should know about. Why would a judge after hearing testimony, and having before him a woman who had stabbed a man, convict and suspend the sentence?

With this in mind this writer climbed into his car Sunday and drove down to the address where this unfortunate girl is supposed to live. We did not find the girl there, but was told she had gone to her home in Paris, Texas. But the girl we did find in the home said that the white sailor was stabbed because he sought to rape the black girl. We have not been able to authenticate this story but shall attempt to do so as soon as we can get in touch with this young woman. We understand she will later return from Paris. Okla. City, Okla.

Unquestionably there must have been some shadow of justification for the attack the young woman made upon this white sailor otherwise it would be an unseemly act on the part of the court to release her. Two incidents have happened lately to convince Negroes that the South needs to do much to clense its skirts of inhuman treatment of Negro women. Somehow there is a group still remaining down in Dixie assuming that the sanctions of slavery, when the black woman was the forced concubine of white men, is still justified. 4-14-45

There is the case of Recy Taylor down in Alabama, where the grand jury, after hearing the horrible story of the rape of a Negro woman by a group of white youths refused to indict. Although the Attorney General of the state was sufficiently impressed that he brough the information before a grand jury. He was later to discover that the testimony of a black woman would not be accepted against that of white youths. This was the safe haven of the white man during three hundred years of human bondage. There is today unwillingness to accept the word of a black as against a white citizen.

The latest case of this character now arises in Georgia. We have just received a statement of facts regarding another case of diabolical violence visited upon helpless Negro women. The statement follows: 4-14-45

On December 24th, twenty-year-old Walter Berry, Jr., Negro, with his seventeen-year-old high school girl companion, also Negro, were waylaid by three white men. Berry was severely beaten, the girl was raped and then forced at the point of a knife to accompany the men in an automobile to a lonely shack deep in the woods of an adjoining county. All three of the men had relations with her, the girl said, and forced her to commit sodomy. Found on the road the following day, the girl was taken to a hospital where her condition was considered so serious that she remained on the critical list for several days.

Indentified by young Walter Berry, the men, it is asser 1, confessed. The trio was indicted on charges of rape, sodomy, assault with intent to murder, and larceny of an automobile. The accused are Ralph New, Ralph Goza and Howard Lamar Morg. Unaccountably, as rape is a capital crime in Georgia, the men were released on a total of $6000 bail.

On March 23, in the face of the admission of guilt, a DeKalb county jury took less than six minutes to acquit Morgan. The other accused still face trial.

home for some reason, she said, but ran out when he saw the gun. A neighbor who had heard the screams called police and Large was captured as he ran from the house.

7261

**Deliberated Only 10 Minutes**

## Bell Boy Acquitted by Jury Of Assault Attempt on Wave

Washington Post Washington, D.C. 11-27-43

Robert Shackelford, 22-year-old bellhop, was found innocent of a charge of assault with attempt to rape a 22-year-old Wave by a jury in Montgomery County Circuit Court at Rockville, Md., yesterday.

The jury deliberated only 10 minutes before returning with its not guilty verdict.

Shackelford, who lives at 1226 17th st. nw., is a bellhop in a Washington hotel.

The events which led to the trial happened the night of September 24 and the early morning of September 25.

Shackelford, Allen Hughett, jr., 18, also of 1226 17th st. nw., and a third youth who was not involved, picked up three Waves in Arlington, Va., the night of September 24. After spending part of the evening drinking in a tavern, the three couples drove to the old Gold Mine property on Great Falls rd. near MacArthur blvd., in Montgomery County.

There, it was alleged, Hughett assaulted one of the girls and Shackelford assaulted all three.

Subsequently, the Montgomery County grand jury failed to indict Hughett and indicted Shackelford on only one charge, that of assault with intent to rape a 22-year-old Wave.

On the stand yesterday, the Wave testified that Shackelford had assaulted her.

However, Lieut. Frank N. Panch, Navy doctor, testified that he had examined the girl September 27 and found no evidence of an assault.

Shackelford denied striking the Wave and denied trying to rape her, in his testimony.

## Deaf Mute Held to Jury In Rape Case

Courier Journal Louisville, Ky. 11-31-43

### Rineyville Youth Is Refused Bond

A 19-year-old deaf mute from Rineyville, Ky., who said he came to Louisville two days ago to make money for the purchase of Christmas presents for his family was held to the grand jury without bond in Police Court yesterday on a charge that he raped a 34-year-old married woman in her home at noon yesterday.

Detective Sgt. Henry Riebel asked that the youth, Lowell Large, be held without bond and said he would seek the death penalty for him.

**Preliminary Waived.**

The woman, beaten and hysterical, did not appear during the arraignment. Large waived preliminary examination by writing on a pad of paper.

The woman told police that Large knocked on her door at 12:15 p.m. yesterday and after indicating that he could neither talk nor hear, he wrote on a pad that he was seeking a roomd. As she reached for the pad to write an answer he grabbed her and knocked her to the floor.

She said she struggled with the youth and almost got to the door, but he caught her and dragged her to a bed in another room, where he tore off her clothing and assaulted her. 11-30-43

**Neighbor Calls Police.**

Large fled from the house and she ran to another room and got a revolver. He re-entered the

## Take Up The Case

(From The Birmingham, Ala. World)

The urge to decency combined with a sense of duty should compel the Henry County Grand Jury to take up the "Recy Taylor Case" when it assembles on Sept. 20 in Abbeville, Ala.

Gov. Chauncey Sparks in having his office conduct an investigation, which developed evidence so strong as to warrant a special session of the Grand Jury, seemed to have been motivated by the sense of justice that is expected to be found in Henry County. The Governor is from that section of the state. He would have hardly taken the steps he did if he had not been overwhelmingly convinced that true decency demanded no less action. In doing so, Governor Sparks deserves commendation.

So far as is known the "Recy Taylor Case" is not on the current Grand Jury docket.

In September, 1944, Mrs. Taylor was criminally assaulted by six white youths in Abbeville on her way home from church. In October of the same year, the accused were turned loose after a hearing for lack of "sufficient evidence." Yet, some of the boys admitted the crime. Gov. Sparks' investigation dugged up more indictable facts. Notwithstanding, on February 14 the jury "no billed" the case.

The citizens of Henry County are the only ones with power to bring the guilty to justice. What they do, or fail to do, will put them on trial before the public opinion of decent people everywhere. Here is Henry County's chance to do its part for Alabama simply by turning justice loose in this case.

There is no question except simple justice is important. The issue is not the color of either the victim or the accused but the count where justice and Americanism are concerned. Where decency calls for the protection of womanhood. Permitting womanhood anywhere to be abused, you leave it without sufficient protection everywhere. Erring men who escape punishment in one instance will feel no restraint in attacking any woman anywhere. If in the interest of selfish politics, the Grand Jury should feel impelled to indict the guilty.

Governor Sparks who knows the facts in the case can do something more. He can bring the moral force of his personality and office to bear. As the State's chief executive he can make an open appeal for giving justice its day in court.

## ABAMA GRAND JURY TO HEAR ...ATED TESTIMONY IN RAPE OF ...S. R. TAYLOR, NEGRO MOTHER

Black Dispatch — Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

...fessed White Youths Released Months

## Grand Jury Won't Reopen Recy Taylor Case

The Chicago Defender — Chicago, Ill. 10-6-45

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Henry county last week failed to hold the scheduled Grand Jury meeting to reconsider evidence in the case of Mrs. Recy Taylor.

Attorney-General Harwood of Alabama announced Thursday, Sept. 20 to a delegation of Negro and white Alabamans that he would request the Henry County Grand Jury to reconsider the evidence in the case. Mrs. Taylor, young Negro woman of Abbeville, was kidnapped and raped by five young white men over a year ago.

Ago—Pressure Brought on Governor

## LIBERAL ORGANIZATIONS UNITE FOR STRUGGLE

Black Dispatch — 9-29-45

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—September 20 will focus national attention on Abbeville, Alabama, where the grand jury will open its regular hearings. No mention is made by the Henry county authorities that the Recy Taylor case is on the docket.

Justice knows nothing of discriminations. Justice is blind to race, color or creed. Workers as Christians, as Americans, as Democrats and as union men must always demand equal justice for all citizens."

OKla City, Okla.

The, organizational secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, Mr. Louis E. Burnham, states that: "The task of winning justice in the case of Mrs. Recy Taylor, young Negro mother was criminally assulted by six white youths in Abbeville. A hearing was held in October 1944 [illegible] accused were released on the basis of insufficient evidence, even though a number of the boys had confessed to the crime. Pressure by Alabamians resulted in Governor Chauncey Sparks putting two special investigators on the Taylor Case. Because of the evidence which was found he requested that a Henry County Jury meet. On February 14th the Jury returned "no bill."

Alabamians through the Alabama Committee of Equal Justice and other civic minded organizations are working in unity to see that further action is taken on the Recy Taylor Case at the forthcoming meeting of the Henry County Grand Jury.

Delegations sponsored by the Southern Conference for Human Welfare the Southern Negro Youth Congress, the Montgomery Equal Justice Committee, members of the Mobile CIO and the Mobile NAACP, will be made up of Negro, trade union and white church women's groups.

The Southern Conference for Human Welfare is also sponsoring a letter signed by three church leaders of Birmingham, which will go to five thousand Alabamians enclosing at petition addressed to Governor Sparks.

Various Alabamians have expressed their concern over the Taylor Case in the following manner:

Mr. Charles Hansen, Director Local 18, IUMSW-CIO, Mobile says, "as workers and union men it is highly important that we foster and promote equal justice for all our people. We know that where one national group, or racial group, or one economic group is subject to discrimination the whole of the social life is soon poisoned. Taylor, is the task for all citizens of Alabama and the nation, white as well as Negro, who want to achieve real peace and democratic unity in the period ahead."

Mrs. Clara H. Rutlege, Monggomery church woman stated, "We like to think that Democracy is God's way for the body politic but democracy without justice is a whited sepulchre. We also like to think it is impractical to disobey the natural laws. The tragedy of our time is that we have only begun to know that it is just as fatal to tamper with God's fundamentals law of justice."

## THE RECY TAYLOR CASE

To the Editor of The News Age-Herald:

"So what—it's just another 'nigger case,' ain't it? Why should I worry?"

If you have lived years in the South, you perhaps have heard remarks which sounded not unlike the quoted words.

So what? Down in Alabama's Henry County, a young Negro mother, Recy Taylor, alleged that several of a group of young men she encountered as she walked in a road near her home forced upon her attentions of a nature unmentionable here. Report has it that one of the men admitted the accusation.

A Grand Jury sitting in the county gave attention to the incident shortly after its reported occurrence. Nobody was indicted. Many believe the jury heard testimony calling for airing in a trial court.

Following the negative action taken in the matter by the first Grand Jury, Gov. Chauncey Sparks, commendably, caused another to be convened. It also failed to indict.

No fair-minded citizen accepts mere rumor as proof that the men are guilty of the grave charge laid against them. No person who respects legal procedure aiming at disclosure of truth and the doing of justice wishes them to be "tried in the press."

But it does appear that the white citizens of Alabama cannot afford to refrain from insisting that the Taylor affair be brought to trial in open court. Looking to this end, praiseworthy action has been taken editorially by The Birmingham Age-Herald, by Judge C. N. Feidelson in his Birmingham News column, and jointly by the Rev. William H. Marmion, Rabbi Milton Grafman and the Rev. Fr. Lawlor, active, respectively, among groups of Protestants, adherents of Judaism and Catholic Christians. Possibly others have made similarly directed efforts. One assumes that all sincere ministers of religion feel and voice disapproval of indecency, infractions of laws set up for the protection of all, and the denial of justice to those who suffer flagitiously at the hands of their disorderly fellows.

Birmingham News

Without being assumptive, this observer can say that in Henry County are numerous individuals worthy of the priceless boon of American citizenship that is theirs. It is unthinkable that they and other prudent Alabamians interested in upholding their state's good reputation would not desire clarification and proper disposition of the unsavory Taylor affair.

10-14-45

Southeast Alabama citizens will agree there is little likelihood that a white person would experience unjust or unduly harsh treatment in a Henry County law court when a matter at issue involved the white on one side and on the other, a person of different race.

4032 Clairmont. W. C. KELLEY.

7262

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47n-1945 Recy Taylor ~~Case~~ ~~Rape~~

# Prominent Persons From 19 States Join Committee for Justice For Recy Taylor

1-19-45 The Call Kansas City, Mo.

7263

NEW YORK. — Nearly 100 prominent persons from 19 states and the District of Columbia have joined a Committee of Sponsors for the Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor, it was announced by Miss Glenda Sullivan, secretary. 1-19-45

Miss Henrietta Buckmaster and the Rev. B. C. Robeson of New York city are co-chairmen, and Assemblyman Hulan E. Jack is treasurer of the Committee for Equal Justice.

Purpose of the committee is to secure the prosecution under Alabama law of six white hoodlums who, on Sept. 3, kidnaped and raped Mrs. Recy Taylor, Negro wife and mother, at Abbeville, Ala.

On Oct. 9, the grand jury of Henry county considered the case, but refused to return an indictment despite the fact that at least one of the assailants had confessed. On Dec. 8, Governor Chauncey M. Sparks of Alabama promised "an investigation" but has not made any further announcement.

"The case of Mrs. Taylor is not an isolated one," the committee announcement said. "It is not merely the case of an individual crying out for justice. It is clear that the reason no attempt has been made by Henry county authorities to punish Mrs. Taylor's assailants is because they are white and their victim is a Negro. This is a fight for all American womanhood. It is a fight for equal justice and for unity of all our people." 1-19-45

Among the sponsors of the committee are: Congressmen George H. Bender of Ohio, Adam Clayton Powell and Vito Marcantonio of New York, Judge Lila M. Neuenfldt of Detroit, New York Councilmen Peter V. Cacchione, Benjamin J. Davis Jr., Stanley M. Isaacs and Michael J. Quill and former Chicago Councilman Earl B. Dickerson.

Promient church leaders on the Committee of Sponsors are: Rt. Rev. Walter Mitchell of Arizona, Rev. John Warren Day, dean of Grace Cathedral, Topeka, Kas.; Rev. F. Hastings Smyth, Superior, S.C.C., Cambridge, Mass.; Rev. Stephen H. Fritchman, editor, The Christian Register; Bishop R. R. Wright, Wilberforce, Ohio; Mrs. I. R. Rutledge, Birmingham, Ala.; Miss Elizabeth P. Frazier, Philadelphia; Rev. Aubrey C. Maxted, Bay City, Texas; Rev. A. Ritchie Low, Johnson, Vt.; Rabbi David Graubart, Chicago; Rabbi Michael Alper, Rev. Shelton Hale Bishop, Rabbi Max Felshin, Rev. Thomas S. Harten, Rev. John H. Johnson, Rabbi Jonah E. Kaplin, Rev. William Howard Melish, Rev. James Robinson, all of New York.

Union officials include: Philip M. Connelly, secretary, Los Angeles Industrial Union council; W. J. Decker, secretary, San Diego I.U.C.; Charles Collins, chairman, Negro Labor Victory committee; Mrs. Ruth Dembo, vice president of the New London, Conn. Central Labor union, AFL; Abram Flaxer, president, State, County and Municipal Workers; Mrs. Katherine Earnshaw, secretary, anti-discrimination committee, New York CIO council; Walter Frisbie, secretary, Indiana I.C.U.; Louis Goldblatt, secretary, Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's union; Donald Henderson, president, Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers; Clifford T. McAvoy, Washington representative of United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers.

Also: James G. Hutchinson, president, South Jersey I. C. U.; James V. King, president, N. Y. District Joint Board, S.C.M.W.A.; Herman C. Gray, secretary, Transport Workers of New Orleans, La.; Oliver T. Palmer, president, Washington, (D. C.), I.U.C.; Max Perlow, secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. Clarina Michelson, educational director, Furniture Workers union; Joseph P. Selly, president, Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers; Ruth Young, secretary, District 4, Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers. 1-19-45

Leading educators who have joined include: Prof. John A. Mackay, president of Princeton Theological seminary; Prof. Royal Wilbur France of Rollins college, Winter Park, Fla.; Prof. Elbert Russell, Duke university; Prof. Walter Rautenstrauch, Columbia university; Prof. Seba Eldridge, University of Kansas, and Prof. Vida D. Scudder, Wellesley.

Officers of organizations who have accepted personal sponsorship include: Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, leading Negro writer and educator and the research director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; James Egert Allen and A. Maceo Smith, presidents of the New York and Texas State conferences of N.A.A.C.P. branches; Winifred L. Chappell, People's Institute of Applied Religion; Mrs. Pauline Dobbs, Alabama chapter of Southern Conferences for Human Welfare; Miss Ruth Jett, Southern Negro Youth congress.

Samuel Novick, president, Electronic Corporation of America; James Waterman Wise, research director of the Council Against Intolerance; Mrs. M. L. A. Pratt of the National Council of Negro Women; Mrs. T. R. Penman of the Women's Auxiliary of the National Maritime union; Miss Frances Williams of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties; Miss Winifred Norman of the American Youth for Democracy; James B. Ford, Communist Political Association; Eugene Gordon, the Daily Worker; Mrs. Ada Jackson, Brooklyn Inter-Racial Assembly; Miss Thelma M. Dale, National Negro Congress; Louis Colman, International Labor Defense; Samuel C. Patterson, International Workers Order.

Writers include: Mrs. Lillian A. Bray, Texas; Miss N. Cleghorn, Vt.; Earl Conrad, Countee Cullen, Miss Babette Deutsch, Dr. Rachel Davis DuBois, Howard Fast, Langston Hughes, Miss Elizabeth McCausland, Lyman Beecher Stowe, New York; Waldo Frank, Mass. 1-19-45

The entertainment industry includes among its representatives: Oscar Hammerstein, 2nd, composer and playwright; Canada Lee, actor; Edward Chodorov, playwright; Earl Robinson, composer; Leonard Bernestein, composer. Artist sponsors are Rockwell Kent, Miss Helen West Heller, Miss Wanda Gag, Raphael Soyer.

Editors include Roscoe Dunjee of the Black Dispatch, Oklahoma; Daniel R. Francis, Miami (Fla.) Tropical Dispatch; William Harrison, Boston Chronicle; Miss Elizabeth Huling, assistant editor of The New Republic; Doxey Wilkerson, People's Voice, New York.

Lawyers sponsoring the committee include Miss Sarah L. Day, New York; William Henry Huff, Chicago; Samuel A. Neuburger, New York, and Arthur J. Mandell, Houston, Texas.

for Mrs. Recy Taylor, Miss Henrietta Buckmaster, co-chairman, said. 1-19-45

"Failure to act in any such case is a matter of grave concern to everyone believing in the principles of American democracy," the letter from the soldiers said, "particularly to those of us who face a ruthless enemy to preserve that democracy. The fact that Mrs. Taylor is a Negro makes the matter doubly important. Before Hitler could lead the German nation back to savagery he first had to create a special class of Germans, outside the protection of the law and the rights of citizens. He did it by building upon prejudice. Nazi gangsters roamed the streets, attacking all who opposed them. They were not brought to court for these crimes against inferior Germans. Thus their organization grew and the perpetrators of the crimes of Lidice, Lublin and Malmedy learned their trade." 3-4-45

Servicemen who signed their names to the protest include J. Halloran, L. J. Ahlers, Kermit M. Hanson, Vernon D. Cobbs, Clyde Wright, C. H. Mitchell, Lee Davidman, E. L. Schiff, Ray E. Emory, Leon Chambers, Howard H. Pokerney, Martin W. Bauer, William Bricks, Joseph Campbell, Louis L. Davidson, Elba G. Ferguson, Francis G. Lardy, Leslie E. Drury, Max M. Boeas, Joseph G. Dork, Edward G. Renish, William C. Holder, Manuel Fingerhut, James R. Bland, Edward Pinkus, Edward R. Miller, Leo R. Ammonson, Albert L. Brinley, Alfred G. Wolfram, Thaddeus C. Mazur, Edward W. Kalb, Leroy V. Young and Paul Boris.

# Soldiers Ask Action In Recy Taylor Case

ATLANTA WORLD G2.

NEW YORK— (ANP)— Thirty-three soldiers "somewhere in Belgium" utilized their time away from the front to send a letter to Gov. Sparks of Ala., urging the immediate indictment of the rapists of Mrs. Recy Taylor, who was kidnapped and criminally attacked on Sept. 4 in Abbeville. A copy of the soldiers' letter was forwarded to Yank in Paris, and to the Committee for Equal Justice

The immediate aim of the Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor is to secure an indictment at the next meeting of the grand jury of Henry county.

THE STORY OF RECY TAYLOR

# Dixie Sex Crimes Against Negro Women Widespread

Chicago Defender Ill. 3-10-45

By EARL CONRAD
(Defender New York Bureau)

NEW YORK — Dixie has two secret undergrounds — in many ways no less dangerous to join than the underground of Nazi Germany.

Earl Conrad

There are the Negro grapevine and the white liberal route through Southern institutions.

When the Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor asked me to go to Alabama to investigate the case of this young Negro woman by six white young men of Abbeville, Ala., I made contact at once with "the liberal white underground" in Birmingham.

I had known that an earlier investigator, Eugene Gordon, Negro newspaperman of New York, had found his way to Abbeville, via "the Negro underground." Gordon told the story of his experiences moving from place to place, person by person, and recited the difficulty of securing the confidence of Negroes themselves. He nevertheless making his way at last to the cabin in which Mrs. Taylor lived.

**Air Of Hush-Hush**

In Birmingham where I met white and Negro liberals, trade unionists, and a few civic leaders, I found that a similar air of hush-hush surrounded our meetings and conversations.

Because of this I am not going to mention many names. To do so would be to expose to possible intimidation, even violence, many liberals, just as would happen in Naziland. This is a terrible thing to have to say about a portion of America—to have to keep referring to it as fascist realization — but it is the truth. 3-10-45

The news of the rape of Recy Taylor was well-known in Birmingham but activity in the Abbeville woman's behalf moved along lethargically. This was no fault of the willing hands, black and white, in the South's steel center.

**Cites 50 Cases Of Violence**

It is simply that the Negro people and their white friends in Dixie have limited power to act on certain matters. Action on civil liberties cases is especially dangerous and difficult. The whites hesitate, with reason, about "sticking their heads out." Negroes alone are powerless and need white assistance.

As one Negro leader put it to me: 3-10-45

"Cases like this, or cases almost as serious as this are so frequent down here, that we almost take them as a matter of course. It's a question of choice sometimes which we can concentrate on for a fight. I've a dossier of 50 cases of rotten violence against Negroes in Alabama in the past couple years We hardly know where to begin in approaching the question."

But the same leader, when informed that Alabamans themselves were in motion on the Taylor case, had spread the news of it to other Southern states and at last involved the North in a sympathetic pressure action acknowledged. "That makes this case different. With the people black and white, North and South, mobilized for a fight for justice around Mrs. Taylor, we now have the strength and power to do something with it. Count me and my organization in on this for a finish fight for the punishment of Mrs. Taylor's "attackers according to Alabama law."

I was happy to hear that.

**Negro Editor Leads Fight**

In Montgomery I at once made contact with E. G. Jackson, editor of the Alabama Tribune, Montgomery weekly newspaper. Jackson will not mind my use of his name and I think it important you know the identity of this Negro editor and fighter.

He at once told me that civic groups in Montgomery had been active for some time in Mrs. Taylor's behalf, that her removal from that medieval community — Abbeville— was being planned, and he offered to be of all possible assistance. I told him I wanted to get to Abbeville and asked him to locate an auto to take me there. That he undertook immediately.

A few words about Jackson and his newspaper office....for there is great social hope in what I saw here... 3-10-45

The Tribune office is on the top floor of a three-story structure on Monroe street. It is an old building, and you enter Jackson's office to find it a small, one-room affair, with a coal stove in the center giving off great heat.

There are several worn desks, cluttered with papers, the walls spattered with slogans, calendars, pasted newspaper clippings, a notary public sign, an insurance license. A secretary sits at a desk near a window, the phone rings constantly.

**Speaks Of Negro Women**

"I hate to say this," Jackson said, "but we do not feel entirely secure in our women here. I do not say this in any criticism of our women at all, but rather in condemnation of the environment which has created all types of insecurity. We Negro men are powerless. The weight of hundreds of years hangs over us like so much iron and we would be superhuman if we alone could lift it off our shoulders."

Then he recounted one horror tale after another of white male degradation of the Negro women of Montgomery and lower Alabama. 3-10-45

Amanda Baker, only 13 years old, had left her home on Oct. 13, 1944; she was kidnaped, taken off in an automobile, poisoned. "An eyewitness states that a white man was driving the car," says a newspaper account. The state offered $250 for the arrest of her murderer.

**Assaults By Cabbies**

"We have had numerous reports from our women," said Jackson, "of assaults by white taxicab drivers. The cabbies take them into their cars at the railroad depot, but before taking them to their homes, drive them outside the town, subject them to attacks. It has been difficult for us to identify such drivers."

Jackson said that there was a certain amount of liaison between white men and Negro women wherein violence was not necessary. "Whether for money, or for a desire to better themeselves, or to free themselves of the poverty and powerlessness of the Negro man, many women are drawn into sex relationships with whites. We know this exists widely. But let the suspicion of a relationship between a Negro man and a white woman arise, and you will have a lynching, and danger even of a massacre."

Thus there is a base and pattern for the white supremacists' casual regard for the virtue of Negro womanhood. 3-10-45

In one afternoon in Jackson's office I had been introduced to the background of the Abbeville case. I wanted to know why it was that six young men believed they could get away with an incredible crime such as that perpetrated on Mrs. Taylor — and why they had gotten away with it!

I learned, to my chagrin, that the phrase, "our way of life," which I have often heard national office-holders use in great pride was, here in Alabama, and apparently throughout the South, pure nonsense.

Great national attention has been focused on the civil liberties case of Mrs. Recy Taylor, 24, Abbeville, Ala., mother, raped by six white men of her community on the night of Sept. 3, 1944. Committees for Equal Justice for Mrs. Taylor have been set up in twelve states; sponsors of the national committee represent 41 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Mass meetings have been held in most of the nation's largest cities.

The Defender was the first Northern newspaper to carry the facts of the case. Mrs. Taylor was kidnaped while on her way home from church in the company of Mrs. Fanny Daniels, 61, and her son West Daniels, 18. On Oct. 9, 1944, a Henry county grand jury which heard testimony of the witnesses and Mrs. Tayor failed to indict. Mass pressure compelled a special grand jury session which, two weeks ago, also failed to indict.

Earl Conrad, New York correspondent for this newspaper, made a personal investigation of the Alabama situation for the committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Taylor. His complete story is told for the first time exclusively in The Defender in this first of a series of articles.

## A Bad Name For The South

Memphis (Tenn.) Press-Scimitar 2-2-45

(The Nation)

It is a pleasure to report that the North Carolina Supreme Court has averted a scandal. Last July 14 William DeBerry, an organizer for the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural, and Allied Workers, CIO, was sentenced to 60 days on the road gang by the State Superior Court, on a charge of having assaulted Louise Johnston, a company-union stooge of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. The prosecution didn't bother to present any evidence to back the charge. It based its argument on the self-evident facts that William DeBerry was a Negro, that Louise Johnston was white, and that the members of the CIO union called each other "brother" and "sister". That was sufficient for the Superior Court. It did not satisfy the Supreme Court which on January 4, dismissed the charge. But justice for a Negro in the South is still the exceptional thing. On September 3 six white hoodlums kidnapped and raped Mrs Recy Taylor, a Negro woman, at Abbeville, Alabama. One of them, Hugo Wilson, confessed and named the others, but the Henry County grand jury refused to indict. On December 8, Governor Sparks promised to investigate, but he has not done anything thus far. A Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor has been organized, with members in 19 states, a few white Southerners among them. It is too bad that the Negro can't get justice without the aid of "agitators," Northern and otherwise. It gives the South a bad name.

## Alabama Sheriff Manhandles Woman Over Recy Taylor

BIRMINGHAM—Deputy Sheriff Corbitt of Henry County, last week forcibly prevented Mrs. Caroline Collier Ballin, executive secretary of the Alabama Committee for Equal Justice, from visiting Mrs. Recy Taylor, who was criminally assaulted by six white youths in Abbeville, Mrs. Ballin charged here today.

"As a citizen of this state I have the right to visit any other citizen, Negro or white," Mrs. Ballin stated, "and any such threats and manhandling as I endured at the hands of this public official should certainly be brought to the attention of county and state officials who are sworn to uphold the civil rights of Alabamans.

Thousands of Alabamans, as well as people all over the nation, have demanded that the rapists, one of whom confessed to an investigator from Governor Sparks' office, be indicted.

## Reveal Arrest Of Woman Probing Ala. Rape Case

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Mrs. Caroline Collier Ballin, 25-year-old white woman who is executive secretary of the Alabama Committee for Equal Justice, revealed in a notarized statement this week that she was arrested and manhandled by Deputy Sheriff Louis Corbitt when she appeared in Abbeville, in Henry County, on July 8 to inquire about Mrs. Recy Taylor.

Mrs. Taylor, 24-year-old Negro mother, who was abducted and raped by six white youths last Sept. 3, at Abbeville, and since then has pleaded vainly for indictment and prosecution of the criminals.

Mrs. Ballin in Abbeville, having learned that Mrs. Taylor was absent at a funeral, went to the home of Mrs. Fannie Daniels, 60, who with her son, West, was accompanying Mrs. Taylor from church on the night of the assault. Deputy Sheriff Corbitt entered the Taylor home and demanded that Mrs. Ballin explain her presence.

Learning who she was Corbitt said he would arrest her for "vagrancy." He refused to show his credentials but grabbed her roughly by the shoulders, forced her into his car and drove to his office in the courthouse. There he questioned her about her family connections, her business, and her reason for being interested in Negroes, particularly in Mrs. Taylor. He ordered her not to return to the Negro section.

Believing that she would be physically prevented from trying to get in touch with Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Ballin agreed, temporarily, according to her affidavit, not to go back into the colored quarter. She was then released.

Mrs. Ballin was educated at the University of Alabama.

# Grand Jury Again on Spot In Abbeville Rape Case

Special to the Daily Worker

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Sept. 17.—National attention is centered on Abbeville., Ala., where the Henry County grand jury, opening its regular hearings this Thursday, again faces the demand to indict Mrs. Recy Taylor's rapists.

Mrs. Taylor, 24-year-old Negro wife and mother, was abducted a year ago Sept. 3 while on her way from church, carried into the woods and raped by six young white men. The grand jury last October, after hearing witnesses, refused to indict on the grounds of "insufficient evidence," though one of the youths had confessed and implicated the others.

Pressure by Alabamans and by organizations and persons throughout the country impelled Gov. Chauncy Sparks to put investigators on the case. Using the evidence they brought him, he requested a special meeting of the Henry County grand jury.

It met on Feb. 14, this year, and returned a "no bill" verdict.

The Alabama Committee for Equal Justice and other civic-minded organizations are petitioning the Governor to see to it that the grand jury indicts the men this time.

**NEW DELEGATIONS**

Delegations are being formed to visit Governor Sparks in the State Capitol in Montgomery. They include groups from the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, the Southern Negro Youth Congress, the Montgomery Equal Justice Committee, white church-women's organizations, the Mobile CIO, and the Mobile National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The Southern Conference for Human Welfare is sending a letter, signed by three church leaders of Birmingham, to 5,000 Alabamans with a petition addressed to Governor Sparks.

MRS. RECY TAYLOR
*Still Seeking Justice*

Miss Glenda Sullivan, executive secretary of the Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor, 112 E. 19th St., New York, is appealing to Governor Sparks in an open letter published throughout the country.

The letter charges the Ku Klux Klan is being revived in Alabama and quotes a member as declaring: "We're gonna get rid of the Jews, Catholics and foreigners." The letter to Governor Sparks ends:

**"The path of honor must mean that you demand indictment from the grand jurors at the Sept. 20 meeting."**

By Charles N. Feidelson

Birmingham News

## This Evening

LET JUSTICE BE DONE

Recy Taylor is the Negro woman who was assaulted by a gang of white boys in Henry County early in September, 1944. The matter was brought to the attention of the Grand Jury the following October, but there were no indictments. Thereafter, Gov. Sparks became interested, with the result that the attorney general made an investigation. He was sufficiently impressed by what he found out to be instrumental in the calling of a special Grand Jury to deal with the case. His office helped to present evidence, but again there were no indictments. That was in February of this year. Since then nothing has been done to bring to justice the offenders, at least one of whom has confessed to participation in the criminal attacks.

Nothing can be done by any authority outside Henry County, because the Alabama law makes no provision for action in the premises except by a Grand Jury of the county in which a crime is committed. The only circumstance which keeps the situation from being unspeakably shocking is that there is no limit to the number of times the issue can be dealt with by new Grand Juries. That is to say, if the Henry County Grand Jury which meets in about a week cared to do so, it could indict the assailants of Recy Taylor. Is it too much to hope that this Grand Jury will take a step toward establishing the reputation of Henry County as a community where justice is done without reference to the color line?

Is it too much to expect Gov. Sparks to renew his concern? He cannot force the grand jurors of Henry County to do their duty. But he can appeal to them to face up to the clear dictates of elementary justice by proceeding as though this were a white woman who had been brutalized. He can bring his moral influence into the equation, and he can have the attorney general's office resume the line it took when it was stirred by fresh knowledge of what happened near Abbeville on the night of Sept. 3, 1944.

# The Recy Taylor Case Symbolizes Struggle for Negro Rights

The Daily Worker

By GLENDA SULLIVAN

Executive Secretary Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor

WHEN Mrs. Recy Taylor wrote "I hope and trust God something will be done about it . . . I can't do anything about it" she was putting into words the plea for help not only for herself, but of thousands of Negroes in the South who have been kept in virtual slavery since reconstruction was sold out. For the kidnaping and rape of Mrs. Recy Taylor is not "extraordinary." It is not "news" to the Negro people. It is part of a pattern which has ben maintained by armed force, by state, county and city law enforcement agencies which are, in the main, arms of the white supremacy stalwarts ruling the South.

### *Terror in The South*

N. Y.

Harsh words? There are file drawers full of examples of lynch spirit in action. Case after case—and no justice.

Abbeville, Alabama, is a little town in the "Black Belt." The "recent items" told to Eugene Gordon, staff writer for The Worker, when he was there last winter must be considered typical of towns throughout the black belt, and this is Abbeville:

Mrs. Recy Taylor, 24-year-old Negro mother, kidnaped, raped. An all-white Grand Jury refused to indict . . . and again refused in spite of evidence presented from Governor Sparks' office of a confession. The investigation from the Governor's office came, incidentally, only after national pressure!

Fred Ward, Negro, 16, chased out of town for defending two young white girl acquaintances from a group of white bullies! Lee Ward, Negro, 17, beaten by a mob. He had been accused of stealing $5! Peter Johnson, Negro soldier, home in Abbeville after two years overseas, beaten by a mob! Wesley Johnson, Negro, jailed for "insulting" a white woman, lynched!

8-12-45

The effect of lynch-justice for the Negro on the civil rights of whites in the South was shown recently by the visit of Mrs. Caroline Collier Ballin, secretary of the Alabama Committee for Equal Justice, to Abbeville. Mrs. Ballin was manhandled, arrested for vagrancy and forced to leave Abbeville. Her "crime"? She was visiting Mrs. Taylor's father!

In Eufaula, another little town, just 26 miles north of Abbeville, an 18-year-old Negro boy, Peter Paul Hall, has ben sentenced to die on the charge of raping and murdering a white girl. The all-white jury deliberated 10 minutes, no Negroes were allowed in the courtroom and the boy was without counsel! Esther V. Cooper, executive secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, who visited Eufaula recently, reports that the terrorization and oppression of the Negroes is so great that they are leaving the section at the rate of 50 a night—refugees in just as full a sense as were the oppressed people of Europe who had to flee before Fascist armies.

One of the most blatant cases of the failure of justice in the South occurred early this year in Decatur, Georgia. Three white youths admitted to police officers that they had severely beaten 20-year-old Walter Berry, Jr., a Negro; stolen Barry's car and forced his 17-year-old girl companion, also Negro, into a deserted cabin six miles away, where they criminally assaulted her. The men were charged with larceny of an automobile, rape and sodomy. The fact that they had confessed was testified to by the Chief of Police—yet an all-white jury acquitted all three, after the most off-hand sort of "deliberation!"

### *Bilbo-ism Must Go*

8-12-45

It is about time we face the fact that the Negro in the South has few rights white supremacists feel bound to respect—that there is terror and oppression, and preparation for more. The Negro soldier returning to the South will find a reorganized Ku Klux Klan, ready to "put him in his place" (in Birmingham instructions have gone out to the hardware dealers to sell and encourage the sale of small arms to whites—to refuse to sell arms to Negroes). If the terror imposed by armed bands of men is not enough—then the courts give their aid! And the Congress of our nation gives voice and publicity to Bilbo's calls to race riot—and so-called democracy-loving Congressmen sit quietly while the vilification of the Negro people goes on!

Certainly there have been gains for the Negro people since the war—but those gains would sound pretty empty if you said them to Peter Paul Hall, who is sentenced to die on Aug. 17! The gains are there, they are facts, but for the majority of the people in the Black Belt there is still terror and oppression.

### *Organizations, Unions On the Job*

8-12-45

Around the case of Mrs. Recy Taylor hundreds of thousands of people have acted for justice—and that includes many southern whites. The Alabama Committee for Equal Justice is built on the growing demand of the decent people of the South for equal justice for all under law.

But the problems of the South cannot be passed over by you who live in California, or Wisconsin, or anywhere in the nation with a few goose-pimples conceded to how awful it must be to live there. If there are any doubts in your mind as to how it affects you, personally, take a quick look at Congress.

What's the answer? Mrs. Eleanor Graham Nichols, leader in the Alabama conference of the Methodist Church, tells in an article on the case of Mrs. Recy Taylor in the Christian Century. She writes, "The best procedure for concerned person to follow would be to reveal their interest to Governor Sparks, Montgomery, Alabama, and request that he reopen the case. Enough pressure of public opinion would doubtless bring about this action . . . A democracy in which a wronged individual is unable to secure justice because of his color, cannot speak compellingly to the subject peoples of Europe and Asia, nor can it justify the death of thousands of its sons on the battlefield."

Literally hundreds of trade union groups, mass organizations and religious groups have taken action on this case, but the body-blow cannot be given to the white supremacy stalwarts who have a stranglehold on the South until, for instance, the members of every YWCA group in the nation take the action urged by the national YWCA. It is time for each of us to face and accept our responsibility: What are you, the Communist, the trade-unionist, the mass organization member, going to do about the fight for justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor? What have you done about it?

### *Individual Action Needed*

8-12-45

Resolutions in the executive bodies of organizations and unions are fine—but the job is not done until every individual in every progressive group in the nation has personally acted. A groundswell of protest, throughout the South and throughout the nation, can win justice for Mrs. Taylor. It's up to every individual to see that it happens.

Organizations working in the South, because of the poverty of the people of the South, face greater financial problems than, perhaps, any other progressive groups. We need your dollars, now, desperately, to print and distribute literature throughout the South and the entire nation. Make checks payable to Hulan Jack, Treasurer, Room 204, 112 E. 19 St., New York.

Mrs. Recy Taylor has had the courage to stand up and say "I Accuse!" For a Negro in the South today this means heroism. Her courage, and the fight for justice which has grown up around her case, has made her a symbol of the struggle for equality under law for the Negro people in the South. The fight for justice for Mrs. Taylor is a fight for the rights of the Negro people of America, the colored peoples of the world. If you doubt that justice can be won you are giving in to white supremacy. If you fail to fight for justice you are accepting Bilbo-ism, and helping to condemn the Negro people of South and North—let there be no doubt of it—to terror, oppression, and in many cases, to death.

MRS. RECY TAYLOR

47n-1945 Recy Taylor Case- Alleged attacks by whites

7265

# See New Jury Action In Alabama Rape Case

Defender—Chicago, Ill.

By JOHN LeFLORE
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Renewed hope for further action in the Recy Taylor case was made known to the Defender by Mrs. Caroline C. Ballin, white, executive secretary of the Alabama Committee for Equal Justice, in an interview here this week. 4-7-45

She explained that Forney Johnston, prominent white attorney of Birmingham, who has agreed to serve in the case for the committee because of a firm belief in law and order, plans action to again get the charges before a Henry County grand jury.

Mrs. Taylor, a 24-year-old mother, was abducted and raped at Abbeville, Ala., on Sunday night, September 3, last year, as she trudged homeward from church. She was snatched from the company of an elderly woman and a boy by six whites, who, under false pretense and at the point of a gun, forced her to get into an automobile with them, drove her to the woods and each of the six in turn attacked her.

**White Youth Confesses**

She gave to the sheriff a good description of car in which she had been abducted, and the next day Hugo Wilson, a white youth, was picked up.

He was in an automobile which met Mrs. Taylor's delineation. Wilson confessed his part in the crime and named five other white youths as equal co-participants. Four of the group have admitted their guilt, according to Mrs. Ballin.

When the whites stopped Mrs. Taylor on the road they pretended that she was wanted by Sheriff George Gamble, of Henry County, "for cutting a white boy at Clopton . . .," and they were assuming the authority to put her under arrest.

Despite a preponderance of evidence pointing to the guilt of the six youth two Henry County grand juries refused to return any true bills in the case. The second of the pseudo-inquisitorial bodies was impaneled by the circuit court judge of that county at the request of Attorney General William N. McQueen, who was directed by Gov. Chauncey Sparks to have a special investigation made. The governor's action followed a deluge of protests made to him against the apparent white-wash of the crime by the regular grand jury which convened last October.

Prominent whites in Alabama and throughout the nation joined with interested Negroes of the state in petitioning for further procedure through a special grand jury which met in February but also refused to indict the white youths although testimony indicating they were guilty of rape is said to have been offered by investigators who were sent into Henry county by Governor Sparks.

Mrs. Ballin told the Defender that Southern whites who have the courage to act according to their convictions must take the initiative in proving to the people of other sections of the country that the South is willing to do its part to have common justice prevail for all citizens.

Mrs. Pauline Dobbs, also of Birmingham, Gilbert A. Sanford of Montgomery, and Mrs. Clarendon McClure, of Mobile, are listed among the prominent white people of the state who are willing to manifest more than a passing interest in the principle involved in the Recy Taylor case.

Mrs. Ballin revealed that a number of other Alabama whites are giving support to the cause but are reluctant to have their names publicly connected with the equal justice movement.

She intimated that the Alabama committee is acting independently of the national committee for equal justice for Recy Taylor, with headquarters in New York, "because Southerners must also do something about the problems of the South."

# Rape Cases Bares 'For Whites Only' On Dixie Justice

Northwest Enterprise
Seattle Wash
2-20-45

ABBEVILLE, Ala. — (FP) — There's a For Whites Only sign on southern justice.

It's an old sign, faded and worn around the edges—but to 23-year-old Mrs. Recy Taylor it's a real and bitter reminder of what happened one autumn night in this quiet little Alabama village of 500 people.

She remembers the date exactly. It was Sept. 3 between 11 and 12 p.m. Mrs. Taylor was on her way home from church with Mrs. Fannie Daniels, 61 and West Daniels, 18. A car passed them several times but when Mrs. Taylor and her friends reached a deserted spot on the road, the car stopped. Six men got out and ordered Mrs. Taylor to come with them. When she refused they drew knives and guns and forced her into the car.

Mrs. Daniels and her son ran the road to the home of a Mr. Cook and awakened him, asking his help. Cook and Mrs. Taylor's father went in search of the sheriff. Unable to find him, they found a deputy, who started the hunt for the kidnappers.

**Stripped of Clothes**

They found Mrs. Taylor staggering toward her home. Still dazed with shock, she told them how she had been taken about 1½ miles out of town, blindfolded, stripped of her clothes, and raped by each of the hoodlums.

Mrs. Taylor described the car to the deputy sheriff, who then found the driver, Hugo Wilson, and put him in jail. After questioning, it was reported, Wilson confessed, naming the others who were with him. 2-20-45

**Yet Wilson was released the next day. And when the grand jury met on Oct. 9, although they heard the testimony of Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Daniels and West Daniels, they did not indict.**

**Victim a Negro**

No lynch mobs were formed, no outraged citizens stormed to the sheriff's office demanding revenge for southern womanhood. The reason was simple. Mrs. Recy Taylor is a Negro. Her assailants are white.

But Mrs. Taylor's anguished cry "I can't do anything about it," echoed in the homes of decent, law-abiding people who saw a new south in birth during the recent elections, whites and Negroes working together to defeat reaction, whites and Negroes working together in unions. Newly-found friends came to Mrs. Taylor's help, took her away from this town—now seething with threats of reprisal against her—and in New York a Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor was set up. 2-20-45

**Call For Justice**

Immediate aim of the committee is to get the Henry county, Ala., grand jury to indict Mrs. Taylor's attackers. Its next step is to pressure Gov. Chauncey M. Sparks to come through with an investigation, which he promised Dec. 8, after letters began pouring into his office. "Labor, church and civic groups in all sections of the country are calling meetings of protest, demanding that the

Mrs. Recy Taylor

assailants of Mrs. Taylor be punished. 2-20-45

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Shipscalers' Union voted to send $15 to the "Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor."

Additional information on the case may be obtained by writing to Hulan Jack, Treasurer, Room 204, 112 East 19th Street, New York 3, N. Y.

vigor." 5-26-45

Mrs. Nichols points out that "it was public opinion that led the governor to his former attempt to secure justice for Mrs. Taylor. Further insistence on the part of the governor would surely persuade the citizens of Henry County that indictments are demanded." 5-26-45

At another point in her article Mrs. Nichols says, "If womanhood is to be revered and protected in one group of citizens, it must be in all, or the protection will prove exceedingly flimsy."

The Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor, headed by the Rev. B. C. Robeson and Henrietta Buckmaster is cooperating with Alabama organizations for the indictment of the rapists. The immediate goal of the committee is to secure 100,000 signatures petitioning Gov. Sparks of Alabama to act on the case.

# Alabama White Woman Aids Recy Taylor Case

Peoples' Voice

A prominent white church woman of Alabama has entered the fight to obtain the indictment of the six men who kidnapped and raped Mrs. Recy Taylor of Abbeville, Alabama last September. The woman is Mrs. Eleanor Graham Nichols, leader of the Women's Society for Christian Service of the Alabama Conference, Methodist Church. 5-26-45

Writing in the May 9 issue of the *Christian Century*, widely read religious weekly, Mrs. Nichols discusses the case of Mrs. Taylor in light of "its bearing on the whole tremendous question of the survival of democracy."

"If anyone doubts that there has been discrimination in the Abbeville case, let him compare it with the Scottsboro case," Mrs. Nichols writes. "In the former, a Negro mother, living with her husband, her character vouched for by Negroes and whites, was attacked on the way home from church by six white youths. In the latter, white prostitutes were assaulted by a group of Negro youths. No one can deny that the state of Alabama prosecuted the Scottsboro case with the greatest

# $600 To Rape Wife? Ala. Whites Make Offer To Recy Taylor Mate!

By FRED ATWATER
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — "Nigger—ain't $600 enough for raping your wife?"

Stocky Willie Lee Taylor considered it.

He talked to white Marvin White, who wanted him to forget prosecuting the six white men who raped and ruptured Recy, his 24-year-old wife.

White spoke for his clients, all youths from prominent Abbeville families who had been identified by Recy. They were Hugo Wilson, Penute Hastings, Sam Shippy, Billie Hilder, Dillard York and Luther Lee.

They were willing to pay $100 each if Recy Taylor would forget it, White said.

By then the rape of Recy, mother of a two-year-old daughter, had become known in every town in Alabama and every Negro community in the nation. The Grand Jury was to meet within a week to act upon one of the few cases ever to be brought to court of white youths raping a Negro woman.

White repeated his offer of $100 for each man as a "settlement."

Willie blurted out "No." But that didn't end it. White came back and again after more pressure and threats had been leveled at the Taylors and Willie said, "Come back later and I'll tell you." He came back later and Willie answered "Yes."

**Defendants Dismissed**

Willie may as well have stuck to his first no. For the Grand Jury called on October 9, 1944, dismissed all the defendants. For a while no one bothered about Recy or Willie or six hundred dollars.

But the dismissal of Dixie's most blatant rape case has started the strongest campaign for equal justice to Negroes to be seen here in a decade. Colored and white citizens met in a mass meeting this week in Montgomery to protest the South's lopsided justice.

One white woman in a fiery meeting screamed for the death penalty for the white youths on the grounds that Negroes accused of attacking white women were meat for the first lynch mob. She contended that had six colored youths raped a white woman there would have been eight Negroes lynched in 1944 instead of the reported two.

Arousing indignation above the Mason-Dixon line, a Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor has been organized in New York and is expected to expand to Chicago, Detroit and Denver.

**Moved For Safety**

Meanwhile, to prevent further intimidation of the Taylor family, white and colored friends were reported this week to have moved them from Abbeville to a point of safety.

Thus Alabama's most controversial rape case—all others are usually solved within a matter of weeks—began September 3, 1944 near midnight. Recy Taylor, together with Fannie and West Daniels were returning home from Rock Hill Holiness church.

A crowded car swept past them, turned, passed again and repeated this a number of times. When Mrs. Taylor reached a stretch of road with no houses in sight, the car pulled up to them and stopped. Six teen-aged boys with a gun and knives jumped out and cried "Halt!"

"Halt for what?" said 61-year-old Fannie trudging along and looking up curiously.

The boys said Recy was wanted by Sheriff Gamble for cutting a white boy in Clopton. They had been ordered, said one, to bring her in dead or alive.

# Sheriff Terrorizes White Defender Of Mrs. Taylor

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 25.—Mrs. Caroline Collier Ballin, 25-year-old white woman who is executive secretary of the Alabama Committee for Equal Justice, revealed in a notarized statement today that she was arrested and manhandled by Deputy Sheriff Louis Corbitt when she appeared in Abbeville, Henry County, July 8, to inquire about Mrs. Recy Taylor.

Mrs. Taylor, 24-year-old Negro mother, was abducted and raped by six white youths last Sept. 3 at Abbeville and since then has pleaded vainly for indictment and prosecution of the criminals.

Mrs. Ballin in Abbeville, having learned that Mrs. Taylor was absent at a funeral, went to the home of Mrs. Fanny Daniels, 60, who, with her son West, was accompanying Mrs. Taylor from church on the night of the assault. Deputy Sheriff Corbitt entered the Taylor house and demanded Mrs. Ballin explain her presence.

Learning who she was, Corbitt said he would arrest her for "vagrancy." He refused to show his credentials but grabbed her roughly by the shoulders, forced her into his car and drove to his office in the courthouse. There he questioned her about her family connections, her business and her reason for being interested in Negroes, particularly in Mrs. Taylor. He ordered her not to return to the Negro section.

"At this point Sheriff Gamble came in," the affadavit continues, "and Corbitt told him why I was there. I also added the fact that Corbitt had manhandled me. Gamble seemed to be in complete agreement with all that Corbitt had done."

Believing that she would be "physically prevented from trying to get in touch with Mrs. Taylor," Mrs. Ballin agreed "temporarily," according to her affadavit, "not to go back into the colored quarter." She was then released.

Mrs. Ballin was educated at the Sindey Lanier High School, Montgomery, Ala., and at the University of Alabama. The Alabama Committee for Equal Justice is now in the South for justice for Mrs. Racy Taylor. The national Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor is at 112 E. 19 St., New York.

# Will See Alabama Gov. on Taylor Case

Special to the Daily Worker

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Sept. 18.—Delegations from all over Alabama will meet in Montgomery on Thursday to call for action by Gov. Chauncy Sparks on the Recy Taylor case.

These will include groups organized by the Mobile National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and a Mobile CIO local, a Negro committee from Montgomery led by E. G. Jackson, editor of the ALABAMA TRIBUNE and Robert Matthews of the NAACP, and a group of white women community leaders headed by Mrs. Pauline Dobbs, secretary, Alabama Chapter, Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

This is part of the campaign got under way here yesterday to force indictment of the six youths who, a year ago, abducted and raped Mrs. Recy Taylor at Abbeville. Mrs. Taylor, 25, is a Negro. Her rapists, all of whom are known to the police are white.

Thousands of wires and letters addressed to Gov. Sparks from throughout the state urged him to see to it that the Henry County grand jury, in its regular hearings beginning Thursday, reverse its "no bill" vote of last February.

**WRITES TO MINISTERS**

The Rev. William H. Marmion, rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church here, urged in a letter to all ministers in Alabama, that appeals for Mrs. Taylor be made to Governor Sparks and to Circuit Judge D. C. Halstead of Henry County.

Leading Alabamians, writing to Mrs. Caroline Collier Ballin, executive secretary of the Alabama Committee for Equal Justice, expressed concern over the double standard of justice as exhibited by the Recy Taylor case.

"Justice should be meted out, and no woman, of whatever color, should be subjected as was this one," declared Mrs. L. S. Evans, white community leader of Birmingham, while Charles Hansen, international representative of the Marine and Shipbuilding Workers, CIO, Mobile, wrote:

## Wire Gov. Sparks For Action, Today

**You, the reader, have a responsibility in the Recy Taylor case.**

**Wire or write to Governor Chauncey Sparks, State Capitol, Montgomery, Ala., that he put pressure on the Henry County grand jury, which meets Sept. 20, at Abbeyville, to indict Mrs. Taylor's rapists.**

**Do not wait for somebody else to do it. You do it!**

**Every Ku-Kluxer and pro-fascist in the South is watching the result of this campaign to get an indictment. Failure for us would mean victory for them. There is an excellent chance for us to win. It is up to YOU!**

**is highly important that we foster and promote equal justice for all our people. We know that where one national group is subject to discrimination, the whole social life is soon poisoned."**

**"UN-CHRISTIAN"**

Mrs. Clara Hard Rutledge, white church worker, wrote that failure to give justice to Mrs. Taylor was "un-Christian" and Circuit Judge D. C. Halstead, who organized the second grand jury hearing at Abbeville, pleaded for "the same protection" of the law for "every person, rich or poor, white or black."

A group of veterans at a hospital in Spokane,, Wash., wrote the Alabama committee:

**"We are white soldiers . . . Negro soldiers have equally shared the responsibility on the battlefronts as well as at home. . . . We have shed our blood against intolerance and injustice and want to find tolerance and justice here, regardless of race, creed or color."**

The Taylor family still lives in Abbeville, where the husband works at a sawmill. Mrs. Taylor in a letter to Mrs. Esther C. Jackson, executive secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress here, asked recently for help to get hospital treatment. She is still suffering from injuries inflicted by the rapists a year ago.

7266

THE STORY OF RECY TAYLOR

# Ala. Rapist Came From Church To Join White Gang In Sex Crime

Chicago Defender

3-24-45

(Third of a Series)

By EARL CONRAD

(Defender New York Bureau)

NEW YORK—It was a white Alabama minister who first compared the Recy Taylor rape case with the infamous, world-publicized Scottsboro case, in which nine Negro boys were sentenced to die for an alleged attack on two white girl hoboes.

He was a prominent Alabama liberal. I met him along with two other white Methodist ministers in a room of the Admiral Semmes Hotel in Mobile.

His story is perhaps one of the most interesting I heard during my investigation of the assault by six white youths on Mrs. Taylor as she was going home from church.

It was from this white minister that I learned one of Mrs. Taylor's white attackers, too, was on his way home from church.

**Lived In Abbeville**

A tall, lean man, intellectual and kindly of manner, even Christ-like, this pastor was in the town of Abbeville on the night of the rape.

He had once lived in that town for a couple of years. His father had been a minister there. In early September of last year he returned to Abbeville to conduct a one-week's Methodist revival. It was a case of welcoming back to the village one who was practically a "local boy," one who had made good, one of whom Abbeville was proud.

Then came the Sunday night when the minister preached his first sermon. Mid-evening the church gathering broke up. One youth took up a collection, turned it over to the pastor, and then went out to meet his gang. That was the gang that raped Recy Taylor.

When the minister learned of the attack, he was shocked. He was especially shocked that the boy who made the collection in his church was a member of the raping party!

**Big As Scottsboro**

The contradiction was too immeasurable for the minister to believe. Something was wrong either with the South, or with Abbeville, or with the practice of Christianity itself.

Later this minister said to someone:

"This thing is as big as Scottsboro."

I wanted to find out whether this minister would help and to what extent he would help. I wanted to find out what he knew about the case, whether he could or would confirm what most of us knew. I did learn that he knew from the townspeople of Abbeville, yes, even from the parents of the youths involved themselves, that Recy Taylor was a good woman, an honest woman, a woman of unimpeachable character. That was important.

I asked him if he would return to Abbeville that week-end, I travelling with him as his friend and a fellow preacher. I wanted to get inside that town and listen and see what made it tick. He and his fellow ministers discouraged this plan, and I had to accept their rejection of it.

**Fear Lynching**

Finally he said something, and his minister friends confirmed him—that dazed me. The minister said:

"If you don't get Recy Taylor out of Abbeville soon they will lynch her."

"Lynch her? Why?" I asked, even though I had realized right along she was in some possible danger.

3-24-45

"Because that is the way they will attempt to solve their problem. They will reason very simply, that this woman is giving us some trouble, so let's kill her. That is the mind of Abbeville, that will be their solution."

I looked at the other ministers. They nodded their heads gravely. They were Southerners and they knew.

I was shocked—and now, realizing more than ever how I had underrated the South's resort to violence as a solution to its problems, I decided to get Mrs. Taylor out of the accursed town at once.

**Tells Harsh Treatment**

I was in the hotel room with this minister until an early hour in the morning. The others had left. We continued to discuss details of the case. He told me of one incident after another of Abbeville brutality, of seeing Negroes beaten in the street, of the harsh discipline of the white-ruling community over the black.

But he said he loved the South, wanted to go on living in the South, couldn't denounce the setup the way he knew it should be denounced.

I went away feeling that I had encountered in him the true dilemma of the South.

It had been my intention to stay on in Mobile for a full day or so to knit together the inter-group threads there that might go into action on the Recy Taylor case, but I now felt it urgent to get back to Montgomery.

**Contacts White Liberals**

In Montgomery I communicated with "the white liberal underground." Names had been given to me in Birmingham. At once, the contacts were responsive, said they would call a meeting of interested whites on the following morning.

Six Montgomery whites, E. G. Jackson, the Negro editor, and I met in the home of a white liberal on a Monday morning. Jackson's is the only name I shall mention: he was the only Negro, he can take it, and the others need no specific identification. All were solid, except one. She was the wife of a plantation holder, Mrs. X. Another was a prominent minister; others were active in civic organizations.

At once Mrs. X raised the issue of "the Northern meddler."

**Shocked By Negro**

To begin with, Mrs. X, whose liberality I strongly questioned then, and question now, was shocked when the Negro, Jackson, entered the front with me.

She had not expected a Negro to come to this meeting. And I introduced him as **Mister** Jackson.

This woman, of middle years, aristocratic, used to "handling" Negroes all of her life, was said to have an influential husband who could get the governor's ear.

She was described to me later as the type with whom white liberals have to work in order to get things done. She is right-minded, I was told, prominent, had once been active in advocating anti-lynch legislation, and might come in on the Recy Taylor matter.

But she glared at me with ill-concealed displeasure. The nerve of the North meddling in Southern affairs.

**Resents Meddling**

"I hope you won't mind my use of the term 'Northern meddling,'" she said, "but we don't like to be told that we don't know how to conduct our own affairs. Now if I can be of any help, I shall most certainly be glad to be."

I explained to her that the South had been very slow in getting started on the Recy Taylor case, even though it was obviously one of the most flagrant crimes since the time when the South burned an occasional black citizen—but added, "Even so, the action in this case **began** in the South. It has merely spread to the North."

I had come down there only after Southern blacks and whites had called for help. I pointed out to her that Henry County, in which Abbeville lies, had failed to indict the six young men named in the attack. Here was reason for someone to act. If the Southerners of decent mind didn't have the strength to secure justice by themselves what was wrong in help from some other part of the country?

I had to tell her that we were "meddling" in Germany right now because of racist doctrines, and we were "meddling" in the Philippines because we were interested in justice, and "meddling" elsewhere too.

3-24-45

Fortunately the other white liberals came to my assistance and quieted her even if they didn't convince her.

Once she addressed herself to my friend Jackson and started talking about "good Negroes and bad Negroes." She used the word Negro, I am glad to say. But it was embarrassing to everybody, and angering to Jackson and to me—still, because we were told that "this is the type we have to work with," and because we were anxious to get results, we tolerated her digressions: even if we were concerned at this moment with some "bad whites."

Mrs. X stalled, said we didn't have enough information on the case, pitied the attackers because of their youth (they run from 16 to 19) and was unimpressed when we told her that at the same time Mrs. Taylor was raped, three young Negroes in Quincy, Florida, accused of raping a white woman, were arrested, indicted, tried, convicted, sentenced, and **electrocuted** in two short months.

**Belief In Caste System**

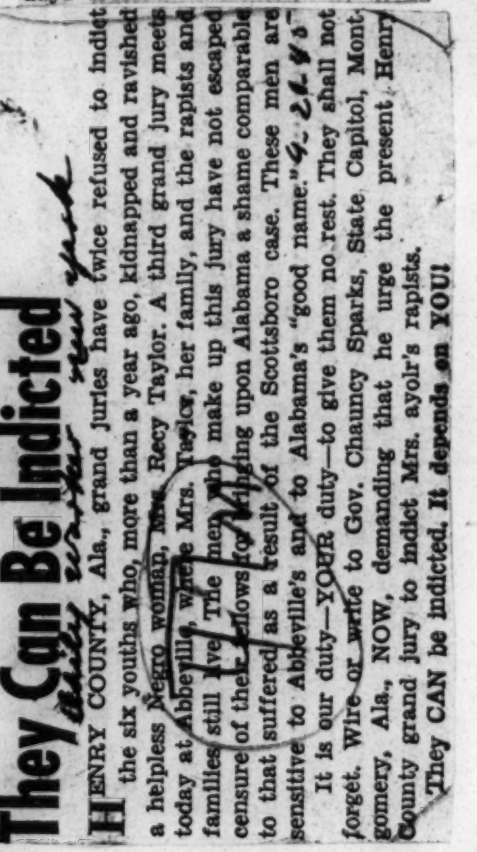
I hope I don't do any injustice to any of the other liberals who were present. They were fine people, desirous of putting some pressure on the governor, ready to act. I go into the picture of this meeting because it illustrates the hardships of the honest white in the South trying to get something done.

I had met in Mrs. X, not a woman who really wanted to help, although she said she did, but one who took an interest in such cases **in order to preserve the caste system.**

Mrs. X believes that lynching and mass rape go too far. The North takes an interest in such things, and she has a deadly fear of the North. Better stop short at lynching and mass rape. If we want the Negroes to work for us and take care of our needs, we can't go too far. We don't want the North down on our necks. We can handle, control and use the black man without such **extreme forms** of violence.

It was shocking to perceive this as I listened, and I could only **imagine** what some Southerners were like if this woman rated as a liberal or right-minded Christian woman. Still, I concluded, if she can be of use, fine.

After most of the meeting had been taken up with defending my right to be there, and after Jackson had repeatedly indicated he did not mind Northern assistance, our meeting closed with a decision to hold a further and larger meeting at a local Negro church three days later.



They Can Be Indicted

HENRY COUNTY, Ala., grand jurles have twice refused to indict the six youths who, more than a year ago, kidnapped and ravished a helpless Negro woman, Mrs. Recy Taylor. A third grand jury meets today at Abbeville, where Mrs. Taylor, her family, and the rapists and families still live. The men are censure of the to that suffered as a t sensitive to Abbeville's

It is our duty—YOUR duty—to give them no rest. They shall not forget. Wire or write to Gov. Chauncy Sparks, State Capitol, Montgomery, Ala., NOW, demanding that he urge the present Henry County grand jury to indict. They CAN be indicted. It depends on YOU!

# Attacks Whitewash In Mrs. Taylor Case

Daily Worker Ny.

2-20-45

By EUGENE GORDON

With further pressure from within and without, Alabama authorities will find the courage and the means to act effectively.

This was the statement of Miss Henrietta Buckmaster, co-chairman of the Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor, in commenting on the failure of a second grand jury hearing to take action in the case of Mrs. Taylor, who six months ago was abducted and raped by a gang of white youths on her way from Abbeville's Holiness Church.

The case declared closed when the Abbeville (Henry County) grand jury dismissed Mr. Taylor and witnesses of her abduction on Oct. 9, last with a "no bill." It would have remained closed long ago, as other similar cases have been, had not decent Alabamians and the rest of the nation been aroused to determined action to prevent it. It was this action, in the form of letters, telegrams and resolutions to the governor, that resulted in a second grand jury hearing.

2-20-45

"The evidence," said Miss Buckmaster, "is there. Several members of the first grand jury, friends and neighbors of the criminals, stood for indictment the first time the testimony in the case was presented. Unfortunately, an indictment must be unanimous under Alabama law.

"Those grand jurors symbolize the New South. With the help and support of justice-loving people the country over, they will yet prevail over the ruling minority which still believes 'a Negro has no rights a white man is bound to respect.'"

Governor Sparks has kept his promise to investigate the case and to take such action as the findings warranted. It is clear that the findings warranted indictment by the grand jury, else he would not have permitted a second grand jury hearing. The people who have helped thus far toward bringing justice to Mrs. Taylor and, thereby, to all Negro women symbolized in her, are urged to continue their splendid efforts.

2-20-45

The attack on Mrs. Taylor was an attack on all women. The only reason a black woman was singled out was that, owing to economic, social and political inequality established during and held over from slavery, she was unprotected and, therefore, easy prey.

2-20-45

A part of her helplessness comes from the fact that her attackers always believe they will escape punishment. The black woman, and not the white, is generally the object of debasement, but only because she is less well protected economically and socially. The white woman is safe only to a degree above the safety of the black woman. No woman is safe or free until all women are free.

**A fight to free all women is a fight for widespread democracy in the United States. The continued fight for equal justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor is a continued fight for genuine democracy for us all.**

# Refuse Indictment In Recy Taylor Case

Atlanta World

2-23-45

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — (SNS) — For the second time within four months a Henry County grand jury has refused to return indictments in connection with alleged criminal attacks on Mrs. Recy Taylor, 24-year-old wife of a Negro soldier of Abbeville, by six white youths, Attorney General William N. McQueen disclosed here Thursday.

The latest effort to indict the woman's alleged assailants occurred Wednesday, McQueen declared, after an investigation ordered by Governor Sparks and conducted by agents assigned to the attorney general's office.

2-23-45

A grand jury which sat especially to consider the reported attacks, heard the charges at Abbeville, the official added, and returned no bills in each of the six cases, despite the fact that "all findings of the investigators"—including an alleged admission by one of the youths that the woman's story was accurate — was presented by an assistant attorney general.

**OCCURRED SEPTEMBER 3**

The alleged attacks occurred the night of September 3, according to the woman's story to investigators working for the attorney general's office. Her story to the investigators and to both grand juries, was that she was halted by several white youths soon after leaving a church and was told that they were from the Henry county sheriff's office and were placing her under arrest. She charged they drove to a secluded spot where, at gunpoint, she was attacked by six of her captors.

2-23-45

Attorney General McQueen issued a formal statement approved by Governor Sparks which indicated that the state had exerted every effort to obtain indictments after the governor's attention was called to the case last December and to the fact that a Henry county grand jury had heard evidence October 9 but had declined to return indictments.

The attorney general said his investigators were told that seven white boys, ranging in age from 14 to 19 years, allegedly figured in the case. The seventh and youngest boy, he added, was not accused of attacking the woman. One of the six, he said, told investigators the woman's story was correct. Two others denied being present and the others, he declared, insisted they had paid her.

**MASS PROTEST**

2-23-45

All of the findings of the two investigators and the assistant attorney general were fully, completely and in detail placed before the grand jury. The body did not see fit to return an indictment.

The attorney general identified the six youths whose cases were no-billed as: Hugo Wilson, Dillard York, Luther Lee, Robert Gamble, Herbert Lovett and Joe Culpepper.

# Birmingham News Again Urges Action in Taylor Case

Daily Worker New York

By EUGENE GORDON

All that keeps the case of Mrs. Recy Taylor from becoming "unspeakably shocking," says an editorial columnist in the Sept. 15 **Birmingham News**, "is that there is no limit to the number of times the issue can be dealt with by new grand juries."

2-20-45

Failure for more than a year to indict and punish the rapists of a helpless Negro woman is itself "unspeakably shocking," the people feel. That is why tens of thousands throughout the United States are writing Gov. Chauncy Sparks, State Capitol, Montgomery, to urge the Henry County grand jury to indict when it meets today.

Fighters for justice for Mrs. Taylor appreciate the fact that Charles N. Feidelson, for the second time in his column, has demanded indictment and that the **Birmingham News** for the third time has spoken out.

2-20-45

Led by the Alabama Committee for Equal Justice of Birmingham progressives of that state have appealed to the Governor to protect the good name of Alabama. Feidelson in his column follows the same line. He writes:

**"Nothing can be done by any authority outside Henry County, because the Alabama law makes no provision for action in the premises except by a grand jury of the county in which a crime is committed. . . . Is it too much to hope that this grand jury will take a step toward establishing the reputation of Henry County as a community where justice is done without reference to the color line?"**

The columnist then asks whether it is too much to expect Governor Sparks "to renew his concern" of months ago, when he succeeded in getting the Henry County grand jury to hold hearings on the case.

**"He cannot force the grand jurors of Henry County to do their duty," Feidelson writes. "But he can appeal to them to face up to the clear dictates of elementary justice by proceeding as though this were a white woman who had been brutalized."**

The writer adds that Sparks "can bring his moral influence into the equation, and he can have the attorney general's office resume the line it took when it was stirred by fresh knowledge of what happened near Abbeville on the night of Sept. 3, 1944."

4-20-45

The Birmingham News

This Evening

By Charles N. Feidelson

LET JUSTICE BE DONE

Recy Taylor is the Negro woman who was assaulted by a gang of white boys in Henry County early in September, 1944. The matter was brought to the attention of the Grand Jury the following October, but there were no indictments. Thereafter, Gov. Sparks became interested, with the result that the attorney general made an investigation. He was sufficiently impressed by what he found out to be instrumental in the calling of a special Grand Jury to deal with the case. His office helped to present evidence, but again there were no indictments. That was in February of this year. Since then nothing has been done to bring to justice the offenders, at least one of whom has confessed to participation in the criminal attack.

with, and it is certainly safe to say veterans of that war have

honor and to guess that

will not be brushed

to be, the

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being

makes

obviously wishes the

more than it has

procedure. He is imply-

military establishment should

higher place in our life than has

been formerly accorded it. He is implying that the military point of view should have greater weight in our national decisions. But why is he going to such pains at this juncture

Reproduced above is the Birmingham News column which for the second time has demanded indictment of Mrs. Recy Taylor's rapists.

47o-1945

7267

## One Lynching in 1945

Richmond Times-Dispatch 1-3-46

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

I send you the following information concerning lynching for the year 1945. I find, according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there was one person lynched in 1945.

12-31-45

This is one person less than the number (two) for the year 1944, two less than the number (three) for the year 1943, four less than the number (five) for the year 1942 and two less than the number (three) for the year 1941.

The person lynched was a Negro farm hand. He was removed from the county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key. He was then taken about seven miles from town and shot to death.

The charge was assault with attempt to rape, and the State in which the lynching occurred was Florida.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President, Tuskegee Institute.
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

MADISON, WIS.
CAPITAL TIMES
Circ. D. 27,313 — S. 26,220
JAN 6 1946

# Hello Wisconsin!

By WILLIAM T. EVJUE

Each year F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, founded by Booker T. Washington, sends an annual survey to the newspapers of the country on the number of lynchings during the year just concluded. The records compiled by Tuskegee Institute reveal that only one person was lynched in 1945. In 1944 two persons were lynched, three in 1943 and five in 1942.

MEMPHIS, TENN.
PRESS-SCIMITAR
Circ. D. 114,722
JAN 1 - 1946

## One 1945 Lynching

By Associated Press

TUSKEGEE, Ala., aJn. 1.—Tuskegee Institute recorded only one lynching throug the nation in 1945, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, reported.

Dr. Patterson said that a research conducted annually by the institute showed that lynchings had steadily decreased since 1942 when five were recorded. There were three in 1943 and two in 1944.

Th single lynching occurred in Florida when a negro farm hand was taken from the Madison County jail and shot to death on a charge of assault with attempt to rape, Dr. Patterson said.

## Only One Lynched in U. S. in '45

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31—Only [illegible] lynchings took place in the United States during 1945, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, announced today. The case was that of a Negro farm hand taken from an unguarded Florida jail. In 1944 there were two lynchings in the nation, according to records kept by the institute. There were three in 1943, five in 1942, and three in 1941.

1-1-45 New York Times

MACON, GA.
NEWS
Circ. D. 13,592
DEC 31 1945

## Lynchings Drop

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—[UP]—Tuskegee Institute recorded only one lynching throughout the nation in 1945, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, reported today.

Dr. Patterson said that a research conducted annually by the institute showed that lynchings had steadily decreased since 1942 when five were recorded. There were thre in 1943 and two in 1944.

## Only One Lynching Recorded in 1945

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 31—(UP)—Tuskegee Institute recorded only one lynching throughout the nation in 1945, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, reported today.

Dr. Patterson said that a research conducted annually by the institute showed that lynchings had steadily decreased since 1942 when five were recorded. There were three in 1943 and two in 1944.

Th single lynching occurred in Florida when a Negro farm hand was taken from the Madison county jail and shot to death on a charge of assault with attempt to rape, Dr. Patterson said.

## One Lynching During 1945

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 30 (AP)— One lynching was recorded by Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research during 1945.

The victim was identified only as "a Negro farm hand" removed from a Florida jail "by a mob" after he had been arrested on a charge of attempt to rape.

The institute's annual report said two lynchings were recorded last year, three in 1943, and five in 1942.

# ONE LYNCHING THE PAST YEAR

TUSKEGEE, Ala., (U.P.)—Tuskegee Institute recorded only one lynching throughout the nation in 1945, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, reported.

Dr. Patterson said that a research conducted annually by the institute showed that lynchings had steadily decreased since 1942 when five were recorded. There were three in 1943 and two in 1944.

The single lynching occurred in Florida when a negro farm hand was taken from the Madison county jail and shot to death on a charge of assault with attempt to rape, Dr. Patterson said.

## One Lynching Case In Past 12 Months

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Jan. 1. (UP)—Tuskegee Institute recorded only one lynching throughout the nation in 1945, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, reported yesterday.

Dr. Patterson said that a research conducted annually by the institute showed that lynchings had steadily decreased since 1942 when five were recorded. There were three in 1943 and two in 1944.

The single lynching occurred in Florida when a Negro farm hand was taken from the Madison county jail and shot to death on a charge of assault with attempt to rape, Dr. Patterson said.

## Tuskegee Says One Lynching In Year of 1945

To the Editor of The State:

I send you the following information concerning lynching for the year 1945. I find, according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there was one person lynched in 1945.

This is one person less than the number two for the year 1944; two less than the number three for the year 1943; four less than the number five for the year 1942 and two less than the number three for the year 1941.

The person lynched was a Negro farm hand. He was removed from the county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key. He was then taken about seven miles from town and shot to death.

The charge was assault with attempt to rape, and the state in which the lynching occurred was Florida.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President of Tuskegee Institute.

FLORENCE, S. C.
NEWS
Cir. D. 5,494 — S. 5,697
DEC 29 1945

Montgomery, Ala., Dec. 30—(AP)—One lynching was recorded by Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research during 1945. The victim was identified only as "a Negro farm hand" removed from a Florida jail "by a mob" after he had been arrested on a charge of attempt to rape.

## Tuskegee Inst. Notes One Lynching In 1945

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 30 (AP)—One lynching was recorded by Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research during 1945.

The victim was identified only as "a Negro farm hand" taken from a Florida jail "by a mob" after he had been arrested on a charge of attempt to rape.

The institute's annual report said two lynchings were recorded last year, three in 1943, and five in 1942.

PLAINFIELD, N. J.
COURIER-NEWS
Circ. D. 18,936
JAN 7 1946

## Year's Lynching Record

Editor, The Courier-News:

I send you the following information concerning lynching for the year 1945. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there was one person lynched in 1945.

This is 1 per cent less than the number 2 for the year 1944; 2 less than the number 3 for the year 1943; 4 less than the number 5 for the year 1942 and 2 less than the number 3 for the year 1941.

The person lynched was a Negro farm hand. He was removed from the county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key. He was then taken about seven miles from town and shot to death.

The charge was assault with attempt to rape, and the State in which the lynching occurred was Florida.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President, Tuskegee Institute,
Tuskegee, Ala.

## Tuskegee Lists One Lynching During 1945

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, made public last week, [illegible] than the number 2 for the year 1944; 2 less than the number 3 for the year 1943; 4 less than the number 5 for the year 1942; and 2 less than the number 3 for the year 1941.

The person lynched was a Negro farm hand. He was removed from the county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the ungarded jail with a key. He was then taken about seven miles from town and shot to death.

The charge was assault with attempt to rape, and the State in which the lynching occurred was Florida."

## Tuskegee Records One Lynching In Country

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31.—(U.P.)—Tuskegee Institute recorded only one lynching throughout the nation in 1945, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, reported today.

Dr. Patterson said that a research conducted annually by the institute showed that lynchings had steadily decreased since 1942 when five were recorded. There were three in 1943 and two in 1944.

The single lynching occurred in Florida when a Negro farm hand was taken from the Madison County jail and shot to death on a charge of assault with attempt to rape, Dr. Patterson said.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
TIMES-UNION
Circ. D. 105,279
JAN 2-1946

### One Lynching

Editor, The Times-Union:

I send you the following information concerning lynching for the year 1945. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there was one person lynched in 1945.

This is one person less than the number two for the year 1944; two less than the number three for the year 1943; four less than the number five for the year 1942, and two less than the number three for the year 1941.

The person lynched was a Negro farm hand. He was removed from the county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key. He was then taken about seven miles from town and shot to death.

The charge was assault with attempt to rape, and the state in which the lynching occurred was Florida.

F. D. PATTERSON
President, Tuskegee Institute
Alabama.

## Only 1945 Lynching Reported in Florida

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 31.—(U.P.)—Tuskegee Institute recorded only one lynching throughout the nation in 1945, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, reported today.

Dr. Patterson said that a research conducted annually by the institute showed that lynchings had steadily decreased since 1942 when five were recorded. There were three in 1943 and two in 1944.

The single lynching occurred in Florida when a negro farm hand was taken from the Madison County jail and shot to death on a charge of assault with attempt to rape, Dr. Patterson said.

[redacted]

ONLY ONE LYNCHING RECORDED DURING 1945

By United Press.

TUSKEGEE, Jan. 1.—Tuskegee Institute recorded only one lynching throughout the nation in 1945, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president reported today.

Dr. Patterson said that a research conducted annually by the institute showed that lynchings had steadily decreased since 1942 when five were recorded. There were three in 1943 and two in 1944.

The single lynching occurred in Florida when a Negro farm hand was taken from the Madison County Jail and shot to death on a charge of assault with attempt to rape, Dr. Patterson said.

## One Lynching Is Recorded In 1945

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
Jan. 1, 1946

Person Lynched Was Negro Farm Hand; Removed From Unguarded Jail By Mob

Charlotte, N.C.

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynching for the year 945. I find according to the records compiled in the Department ofRecords and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there was one person lynched in 1944.

This is one person less than the number two for the year 1944; two less than the number three for the year 1943; four less than the number five for the year 1942; and two less than the number three for the year 1941.

The person lynched was a Negro farm hand. He was removed from the county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key. He was then taken about seven miles from town and shot to death. 1-24-46

The charge was assault with attempt to rape, and the state in which the lynching occurred was Florida.

Very truly yours,
F. D. Patternson, President,
Tuskegee Institute.

Macon, Ga., News
December 31, 1945

### Lyn[ch]ings Drop

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—[UP]—Tuskegee Institute recorded only one lynching throughout the nation in 1945, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, reported today.

Dr. Patterson said that a research conducted annually by the institute showed that lynchings had steadily decreased since 1942 when five were recorded. There were thre in 1943 and two in 1944.

Rome, Ga., News-Tribune
December 31, 1945

## One Lynching Mars '45 Record

By HENRY LESENE

ATLANTA, Dec. 31.—(AP)—A lynchless America almost became a realty in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded so far this year by Tuskegee Institute and the Governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892, there were 231. That was an all-time high. In 1933, there were 28 in 11 States.

By 1939, there were only three lynchings in two States. In 1940, the figure rose to five, but dropped to four in 1941. In 1942, there were five again, in 1943 three and in 1944 two.

The lynching recorded this year involved a Negro taken from an unguarded jail at Madison, Fla., and shot to death. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The Grand Jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahassee today, Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

New Orleans, La. Times-Picayune
January 3, 1946

### One Lynching Last Year

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

Editor, The Times-Picayune:

I send you the following information concerning lynching for the year 1945. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there was one person lynched in 1945.

This is one person less than the number two for the year 1944; two less than the number three for the year 1943; four less than the number five for the year 1942, and two less than the number three for the year 1941.

The person lynched was a Negro farm hand. He was removed from the county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key. He was then taken about seven miles from town and shot to death.

The charge was assault with attempt to rape, and the state in which the lynching occurred was Florida.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN. NEWS
JAN. 1, 1946

## ONLY 1 LYNCHING RECORDED IN '45

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (UP)—Tuskegee Institute recorded only one lynching throughout the nation in 1945, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, reported today.

Dr. Patterson said that a research conducted annually by the institute showed that lynchings had steadily decreased since 1942, when five were recorded. There were three in 1943 and two in 1944.

The single lynching occurred in Florida when a Negro farm hand was taken from the Madison County jail and shot to death on a charge of assault with attempt to rape, Dr. Patterson said.

## Records Show One Lynching During '45

TUSKEGEE, (ANP.)—One person was lynched in America in 1945, according to the records of Tuskegee Institute. 1-12-46

The person lynched was a Florida Negro farm hand, said F. D. Patterson, school president. He was removed from the county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key, taken about seven miles from town and shot to death. 1-12-46

The 1945 lynching record is one less than 1944; two less than "the three for 1943; four less than the number five for the year 1942 and two less than the number three for 1941," Patterson disclosed.

LOUISVILLE, KY. COURIER JR.
DEC. 30, 1945 J31

## Only One Lynching Recorded This Year

Atlanta, Dec. 29 (AP)—A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded by Tuskegee Institute and the Governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been declining steadily. In the year 1892 there were 231 lynchings. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states. In 1944 there were two.

The lynching recorded this year involved a Negro taken from an unguarded jail and shot to death. He had been indicted for attempting to rape a 5-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found.

GREENVILLE, MISS. DELTA DEMOCRAT-TIMES
JAN. 1, 1946 F3

## One Lynching Case In Past 12 Months

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Jan. 1. (UP)—Tuskegee Institute recorded only one lynching throughout the nation in 1945, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, reported yesterday.

Dr. Patterson said that a research conducted annually by the institute showed that lynchings had steadily decreased since 1942 when five were recorded. There were three in 1943 and two in 1944.

The single lynching occurred in Florida when a Negro farm hand was taken from the Madison county jail and shot to death on a charge of assault with attempt to rape, Dr. Patterson said.

47o-1945

Reports On

7268

# One Lynching During 1945

## That Disputed By Florida Governor

ATLANTA, Dec. 29 (AP).—A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded by Tuskegee Institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

By 1939 there were only 3 lynchings in 2 states. In 1940 the figure rose to 5, but dropped to 4 in 1941. In 1942 there were 5 again, in 1943 3 and in 1944 2.

* * *

**THE LYNCHING RECORDED** this year involved a Negro taken from an unguarded jail at Madison, Fla., and shot to death.

He had been indicted for attempting to rape a 5-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The Grand Jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahassee today Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

This drew a quick statement from Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial Southern group of Southern editors, churchmen and others working for betterment of racial relations.

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the Governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his Attorney General did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

* * *

**DR. JOHNSON added that the** 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by 2 or 3 persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The SRC director said, however, that "the old style mob lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He added:

"I believe that if we use our common sense here in the South we can avoid a repetition of the period of Ku Kluxism and lynching which we had after World War I.

"The biggest problem facing the South is the economic problem. If we can get a better balance between agriculture and industry, equalization of freight rates, and full employment at fair wages, we can really have the new South which is so long overdue.

* * *

**"WHEN THERE IS economic security,** people of all classes or races will get along better together."

Dr. Johnson named 12 other pressing problems in the South in the postwar era as "fair play for veterans, white and colored" and a "more impartial administrtion of the law." The law, he said, should be "color blind."

# Single Lynching Recorded in '45

ATLANTA, Dec. 29—(AP)—A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded by Tuskegee Institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

By 1939 there were only three lynchings in two states. In 1940 the figure rose to five, but dropped to four in 1941. In 1942 there were five again, in 1943 three and in 1944 two.

**Negro Shot to Death**

The lynching recorded this year involved a negro taken from an unguarded jail at Madison, Fla., and shot to death.

He had been indicted for attempting to rape a five-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The grand jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahassee today Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

This drew a quick statement from Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial southern group of southern editors, churchmen and others working for the betterment of racial relations.

**Governor Deserves Praise**

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

Dr. Johnson added that the 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The SRC director said, however, that "the old style mob lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out."

# One Lynching Listed In '45

## Lone Case Questioned By Florida Governor

ATLANTA, Dec. 29—(AP)—A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded so far this year by Tuskegee Institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

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"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

Dr. Johnson added that the 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The SRC director said, however, that "the old style mob lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out."

# 'Skegee Records Show One Lynching in 1945

TUSKEGEE (ANP)—One person was lynched in America in 1945, according to the records of Tuskegee Institute.

The person lynched was a Florida Negro farm hand, said F. D. Patterson, school president. He was removed from the county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key, taken about seven miles from town and shot to death.

The 1945 lynching record is one less than 1944; two less than "the three for 1943; four less than the number five for the year 1942 and two less than the number three for 1941," Patterson disclosed.

ROME, GA.
NEWS-TRIBUNE
Circ. D. 7,139 — S. 7,305
DEC 31 1945

# *One Lynching Mars '45 Record*

By HENRY LESENE

ATLANTA, Dec. 31.—(AP)—A lynchless America almost became a realty in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded so far this year by Tuskegee Institute, and the Governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231. That was an all-time high. In 1933, there were 28 in 11 States.

By 1939, there were only three lynchings in two States. In 1940, the figure rose to five, but dropped to four in 1941. In 1942, there were five again, in 1943 three and in 1944 two.

The lynching recorded this year involved a Negro taken from an unguarded jail at Madison, Fla., and shot to death. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The Grand Jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahassee today, Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

# ONLY ONE LYNCHING IN U. S. THE PAST YEAR

## HAVE BEEN STEADILY DECLINING EACH YEAR FROM A HIGH OF 231 IN 1892.

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Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

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The lynching recorded last year involved a negro taken from an unguarded jail at Madison, Fla. and shot to death.

He had been indicted for attempting to rape a five-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The grand jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahassee Governor Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

This drew a quick statement from Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial group.

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

1945

Columbia, S. C., Record
January 3, 1946

sizes, shoe width, their size.

# Only 1 Lynching Recorded In 1945

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(UP)—Tuskegee Institute recorded only one lynching throughout the nation in 1945, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, reported today.

Dr. Patterson said that a research conducted annually by the institute showed that lynchings had steadily decreased since 1942 when five were recorded. There were three in 1943 and two in 1944.

The single lynching occurred in Florida when a Negro farm hand was taken from the Madison county jail and shot to death on a charge of assault with attempt to rape, Dr. Patterson said.

ALBANY, GA.
HERALD
Circ. D. 9,814 - S. 9,614
DEC 30 1945

# One Lynching Recorded in '45, Tuskegee Says

By HENRY LESEESNE

ATLANTA, Dec. 29 (AP).—A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded by Tuskegee Institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

By 1939 there were only three lynchings in two states. In 1940 the figure rose to five, but dropped to four in 1941. In 1942 there were five again, in 1943 three and in 1944 two.

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He had been indicted for attempting to rape a five-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The grand jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahassee today Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

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"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

Doctor Johnson added that the 1945 record is not good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The SRC director said, however, that "the old style mob lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He added:

**Can Avoid Lynchings**

"I believe that if we use our common sense here in the South we can avoid a repetition of the period of Ku Kluxism and lynching which we had after World War I.

"The biggest problem facing the South is the economic problem. If we can get a better balance between agriculture and industry, equalization of freight rates, and full employment at fair wages, we can really have the new South which is so long overdue.

"When there is economic security, people of all classes or races will get along better together."

Doctor Johnson named two other pressing problems in the South in the postwar era as "fair play for veterans, white and colored" and a "more impartial administration of the law." The law, he said, should be "color blind."

Governor Caldwell said it was his personal opinion the killing of the Negro at Madison did not come within the definition of lynching, and amplified:

"The ordeal of bringing a young and innocent victim of rape into open court and subjecting her to detailed cross examination by defense counsel could easily be as great an injury as the original crime.

"This fact probably accounts for a number of killings or lynchings which might otherwise be avoided. Society has not found a solution to this problem."

Columbus Ga. Ledger
December 31, 1945

# Only One Lynching Reported in U. S.; Florida Denies It

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31—During 1945, the only one lynching in the United States took place in Florida, records compiled by Tuskegee Institute showed today.

The number of lynchings have been decreasing over a period of years. There were two in 1944; three in 1943; five in 1942, and three in 1941.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Dec. 31 (AP)—Gov. Millard Caldwell told an Encyclopedia Britannica writer that in his opinion the October slaying of a jailed negro at Madison "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

Jesse James Payne was taken from an unguarded jail and shot to death after he had been indicted for attempting to rape a five-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found and the grand jury said it was unable to fix the responsibility.

R. B. Eleazer of the Methodist Church General Board of Education at Nashville, Tenn., wrote to the governor about the case with the explanation that he had been asked to prepare a 1945 report for the Encyclopedia yearbook.

SAVANNAH, GA.
NEWS
Circ. D. 40,666 - S. 42,018
DEC 30 1945

# FLORIDA HAD ONLY LYNCHING

## FEWER EVERY YEAR

## Negro Was Taken From Jail at Madison, Fla.

BY HENRY LESESNE

ATLANTA, Dec. 29 (AP).—A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded so far by Tuskegee Institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

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The lynching recorded this year involved a negro taken from an unguarded jail at Madison, Fla., and shot to death.

He had been indicted for attempting to rape a five-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The grand jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahassee today Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

This drew a quick statement from Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial Southern group of Southern editors, churchmen and others working for betterment of racial relations.

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

Dr. Johnson added that the 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The SRC director said, however, that "the old style mob lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He added:

"I believe that if we use our common sense here in the South we can avoid a repetition of the period of Ku Kluxism and lynching which we had after World War I.

"The biggest problem facing the South is the economic problem. If we can get a better balance between agriculture and industry, equalization of freight rates, and full employment at fair wages, we can really have the New South which is so long overdue.

"When there is economic security, people of all classes or races will get along better together."

Dr. Johnson named two other pressing problems in the South in the postwar era as "fair play for veterans, white and colored" and a "more impartial administration of the law." The law, he said, should be "color blind."

Gov. Caldwell said it was his personal opinion the killing of the negro at Madison did not come within the delinition of lynching, and amplified:

"The ordeal of bringing a young and innocent victim of rape into open court and subjecting her to detailed cross examination by defense counsel could easily be as great an injury as the original crime.

"This fact probably accounts for a number of killings or lynchings which might otherwise be avoided. Society has not found a solution to this problem."

AUGUSTA, GA.
CHRONICLE
Circ. D. 23,367 - S. 23,491
DEC 30 1945

# One Lynching Recorded in '45

## Governor of Florida Questions It

By HENRY LESESNE

ATLANTA, Dec. 29. (AP) — A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching so far this year recorded by Tuskegee institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

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"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

**BORDERLINE CASES**

Dr. Johnson added that the 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The SRC director said, however, that "the old style mob lunching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He added:

"I believe that if we use our common sense here in the south we can avoid a repetition of the period of Ku Kluxism and lynching which we had after World War 1.

"The biggest problem facing the South is the economic problem. If we can get a better balance between agriculture and industry, equalization of freight rates, and full employment at fair wages, we can really have the new south which is so long overdue.

"When there is economic security, people of all classes or races will get along better together."

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470-1945 7269 Reports On

NORFOLK, VA.
LEDGER-DISPATCH
Cir. D. 60,108

JAN 22 1946

GREENSBURG, PA.
REVIEW
Circ. D. 6,805

JAN 24 1946

RICHMOND, VA.
TIMES-DISPATCH
Circ. D. 96,538 - S. 124,[illegible]

DEC 30 1945

# Lynchings in Sharp Decline Tuskegee Report Indicates

By HENRY LESESNE

ATLANTA, Dec. 29—(AP)—A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching so far this year recorded by Tuskegee Institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

470

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 States.

1945

By 1939 there were only three lynchings in two States. In 1940 the figure rose to five, but dropped to four in 1941. In 1942 there were five again, in 1943 three and in 1944 two.

The lynching recorded this year involved a Negro taken from an unguarded jail at Madison, Fla., and shot to death.

He had been indicted for attempting to rape a five-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The grand jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahassee today Governor Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

This drew a quick statement from Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial southern group of southern editors, churchmen and others working for betterment of racial relations.

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney-general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

**Borderline Cases**

Dr. Johnson added that the 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The SRC director said, however, that "the old style mob lynching, with all its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He added:

"I believe that if we use our common sense here in the South we can avoid a repetition of the period of Ku Klux Klanism and Lynching which we had after World War 1.

"The biggest problem facing the South is the economic problem. If we can get a better balance between agriculture and industry, equalization of freight rates, and full employment at fair wages, we can really have the new South which is so long overdue.

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"This fact probably accounts for a number of killings or lynchings which might otherwise be avoided. Society has not found a solution to this problem."

FLORENCE, S. C.
NEWS
Cir. D. 5,439—S. 5,654

JAN 25 1946

HACKENSACK, N. J.
BERGEN RECORD
Circ. D. 31,085

FEB 6 1946

## Tuskegee Finds One Lynching During 1945

Iowa Bystander
Des Moines, Iowa
1-3-46

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.—According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, one person was lynched in 1945 F. D. Patterson, president of the school, revealed.

"This is 1 person less than the number 2 for the year 1944; 2 less than the number 3 for the year 1943; 4 less than the number 5 for the year 1942; and 2 less than the number 3 for the year 1941.

"The person lynched was a Negro farm hand. He was removed from the county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key. He was then taken about seven miles from town and shot to death.

"The charge was assault with attempt to rape, and the state in which the lynching occurred was Florida."

## One Lynching In 1945 Reported

World 1-1-46 Memphis, Tenn

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, one person was lynched during the year 1945. This information was released to the press by President F. D. Patterson.

The release pointed out that this is one person less than the number lynched in 1944 and two less than the number lynched in 1943. There were five lynchings in 1942 as compared with three in the year 1941.

The person lynchd in 1945 was a Negro farm hand, charged with assault with rape in Florida. He was removed from the county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key and taken about seven miles from town and shot to death.

## Lynching in Florida Only One Recorded by Tuskegee Bureau

The American Baltimore, Md. 1-5-46

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—According to a recent release by the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, one person was lynched in 1945—a farm hand taken from a Florida jail where he had been held charged with assault and shot to death.

The number, it was revealed, was the smallest in five years, two persons having been lynched in 1944, three in 1943, five in 1942, and three in 1941.

TUSKEGEE INST., Ala.—Accord ng to information re eased this week by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Inst. the records compiled by the Department of Records and Research of the school sh w that there was one person lynched in 1945. 1-6-46

This is one person less than the number 2 for the year 1944; 2 less than the number 3 for the year 1943; 4 less than the number 5 for the year 1942, and 2 less than the number 3 for the year 1941. Tribune

The person lynched during 1945 was a Negro farm hand. He was removed from the county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key. He was then taken about seven miles from the town and shot to death. Savannah, Ga.

The charge was assault with attempt to rape, and the state in which the lynching occurred was Florida.

Birmingham, Ala., News
December 31, 1945

## Single Lynching Case Reported By Institute In Year Now Ending

ATLANTA, Dec. 31 — (AP) — A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded so far this year by Tuskegee Institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In 1892, there were 231 lynchings. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

By 1939 there were only three lynchings in two states. In 1940 the figure rose to five, but dropped to four in 1941. In 1942 there were five again, in 1943, three, and in 1944, two.

The lynching recorded this year involved a Negro taken from an unguarded jail and shot to death.

He had been indicted for attempting to rape a 5-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The Grand Jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

* * *

IN TALLAHASSEE TODAY, Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

This drew a quick statement from Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial Southern group of Southern editors, churchmen and others working for betterment of racial relations.

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

Dr. Johnson added that the 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The S. R. C. director said, however, that "the old style mob lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He added: "I believe that if we use our common sense here in the South we can avoid a repetition of the period of Ku Kluxism and lynching which we had after World War I.

Dr. Johnson named two other pressing problems in the South in the postwar era as "fair play for veterans, white and colored" and a "more impartial administration of the law." The law, he said, should be "color blind."

Augusta, Ga. Herald
December 30, 1945

## ONLY ONE LYNCHING RECORDED IN 1945

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In Tallahassee today Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

## TUSKEGEE REPORTS ON 1945 LYNCHING

Scripps-Howard Reader
For release December 31, 1945. Phila., Pa.

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynching for the year 1945. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there was one person lynched in 1945.

This is one person less than the number two for the year 1944; two less than the number three for the year 1943; four less than the number five for the year 1942; and two less than the number three for the year 1941. 1-3-46

The person lynched was a Negro farm hand. He was removed from the county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key. He was then taken about seven miles from town and shot to death.

The charge was assault with attempt to rape, and the state in which the lynching occurred was Florida.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON,
President.

Fitzgerald, Ga. Herald
January 8, 1946

## Only One Lynching in U. S. the Past Year

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# Tuskegee Reports Only One Lynching in 1945

People's Voice New York, N.Y.
1-5-45

**Did Tuskegee Institute, considered an authority on lynching records, slip up on its 1945 report of these crimes, or did it decide that two known deaths at the hands of officers of the law in South Carolina and Florida were not lynchings? The 1945 lynching record** for the year as released by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the institute, gives only one lynching—that of a Negro who was removed from a county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key."

Although not naming the victim, the Institute evidently refers to Jesse Payne of Madison County, Fla. The sheriff from whom the key was believed to have been taken, was exonerated by a grand jury.

According to the New York Daily Worker, Sam McFadden was killed in September, but his death was not discovered until October 29 when his body was found floating in the Suwanee River near Live Oak, Fla., in October, the same town near which Payne was killed. A chief of police and two other white men were exonerated of the crime by a grand jury.

Another man, Moses Green, who was first identified as a Mr. Singleton, was also reported lynched in Ellentown, S. C. His daughter, Mrs. Beatrice Singleton, who now lives in Philadelphia, gave the names of the suspected guilty persons.

The sheriff of Aiken county, where the crime occurred, admitted that one of his deputies had killed a Negro farmer by the name of Moses Green, in a telephone conversation with the Daily Worker.

According to the Worker, a Negro, whose name has not yet been learned was also found shot to death in Florida in November, under circumstances which the reporter in the area suspected as a lynching. He reported at the time that there was a probability of a fifth victim.

The NAACP, which usually releases an annual report on lynchings, has not yet released its 1945 report, but from conversations with its office, it is believed that it will consider the deaths reported by the Daily Worker as lynchings.

Due to the lack of a basic method of determining what constitutes a lynching, the three major groups which have taken the lead in keeping records of these crimes held a conference at Tuskegee Institute in 1940, according to the 1942 Negro Handbook, by Florence Murray, in order to prevent such conflicting reports as will probably be apparent in reporting the 1945 record.

The three groups were the department of records and research at Tuskegee, the NAACP, and the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. They agreed upon a joint report for 1940. But since that time there has been no information concerning the meeting of these groups again.

Athens Banner Herald
December 30, 1945

# Lynchings Decrease To One In 1945, Tuskegee Records

ATLANTA, Dec. 29—(AP)—A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded by Tuskegee Institute and the Governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

By 1938 there were only three lynchings in two states. In 1940 the figure rose to five, but dropped to four in 1941. In 1942 there were five again, in 1943 three and in 1944 two.

**Prisoner Shot**

The lynching recorded this year involved a Negro taken from an unguarded jail at Madison, Fla., and shot to death.

He had been indicted for attempting to assaut a five-year-old girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The grand jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahassee today Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

This drew a quick statement from Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial Southern group of Southern editors, churchmen and others working for betterment of racial relations."

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

Dr. Johnson added that the 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The SRC director said, however, that "the old style mob lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He added:

"I believe that if we use our common sense here in the South we can avoid a repetition of the period of Ku Kluxism and lynching which we had after World War 1."

**Problem Is Economic**

"The biggest problem facing the South is the economic problem. If we can get a better balance between agriculture and industry, equalization of freight rates, and full employment at fair wages, we can really have the new South which is so long overdue.

When there is economic security, people of all classes or races will get along better together."

Dr. Johnson named two other pressing problems in the South in the postwar era as "fair play for veterans, white and colored" and a "more impartial administration of the law." The law, he said, should be "color blind."

47o-1945

Reports On

7271

SEAUNTLEN, VA.
LEADER
Cir. D. 3,608

DEC 29 1945

ONE LYNCHING RECORDED
TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE REPORTS

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 30 —(AP)—One lynching was recorded by Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research during 1945.

The victim was identified only as a "Negro farm hand" removed from a Florida jail "by a mob" after he had been arrested on a charge of attempt to rape.

The Institute's annual report said two lynchings were recorded last year, three in 1943, and five in 1942.

# Only One Lynching Reported in U. S.; Florida Denies It

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31—During 1945, the only one lynching in the United States took place in Florida, records compiled by Tuskegee Institute showed today.

The number of lynchings have been decreasing over a period of years. There were two in 1944; three in 1943; five in 1942, and three in 1941.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Dec. 31 (AP)—Gov. Millard Caldwell told an Encyclopedia Britannica writer that in his opinion the October slaying of a jailed negro at Madison "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

Jesse James Payne was taken from an unguarded jail and shot to death after he had been indicted for attempting to rape a five-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found and the grand jury said it was unable to fix the responsibility.

R. B. Eleazer of the Methodist Church General Board of Education at Nashville, Tenn., wrote to the governor about the case with the explanation that he had been asked to prepare a 1945 report for the Encyclopedia yearbook.

RICHMOND, VA.
TIMES-DISPATCH
Circ. D. 96,538 - S. 126,193

DEC 31 1945

## One Lynching in 1945

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

I send you the following information concerning lynching for the year 1945. I find, according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there was one person lynched in 1945.

This is one person less than the number (two) for the year 1944, two less than the number (three) for the year 1943, four less than the number (five) for the year 1942 and two less than the number (three) for the year 1941.

The person lynched was a Negro farm hand. He was removed from the county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key. He was then taken about seven miles from town and shot to death.

The charge was assault with attempt to rape, and the State in which the lynching occurred was Florida.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President, Tuskegee Institute.
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

# Only One Lynching Reported In 1945 And That Questioned

ATLANTA, (AP) — A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded by Tuskegee Institute and the Governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

By 1938 there were only three lynchings in two states. In 1940 the figure rose to five but dropped to four in 1941. In 1942 there were five again, in 1943 three and in 1944 two.

The lynching recorded this year involved a Negro taken from an unguarded jail at Madison, Fla., and shot to death.

He had been indicted for attempting to rape a five-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The grand jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahassee yesterday Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching"

This drew a quick statement from Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial Southern group of Southern editors, churchmen and others working for betterment of racial relations.

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the Governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his Attorney General did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

Dr. Johnson added that the 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have ben several cases of a "borderlhine nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The SRC director said, however, that "the old style mob lynching with all of its horrors is definitely on the way out."

FLORENCE, S. C.
NEWS
Cir. D. 5,439—S. 5,654

DEC 30 1945

# One Lynching Is Reported In U. S. During The Year

Atlanta, Dec. 29 —(AP)— A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded by Tuskegee Institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

By 1938 there were only three lynchings in two states. In 1940 the figure rose to five but dropped to four in 1941. In 1942 there were five again, in 1943 three and in 1944 two.

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In Tallahassee today Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

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"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

Doctor Johnson added that the 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The SRC director said, however, that "the old style mob lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out."

FORT MYERS, FLA.
NEWS-PRESS
Cir. D. 6,320 — S. 5,320

DEC 30 1945

# Florida Lynching Only One of 1945 Survey Discloses

ATLANTA, Dec. 29 — (AP) — A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded by Tuskegee institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching. Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231, an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28. By 1938 there were only three lynchings. In 1940 the figure rose to five but dropped to four in 1941. In 1942 there were five again, in 1943 three, and in 1944 two.

The lynching recorded this year involved a Negro taken from an unguarded jail at Madison, Fla., and shot to death. He had been indicted for attempting to rape a five-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The grand jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahassee today Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching." This drew a quick statement from Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the southern regional council.

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

The SRC director said that "the old style mob lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He adided: "I believe that if we use our common sense here in the South we can avoid a repetition of the period of Ku Kluxism and lynching which we had after world war 1.

"The biggest problem facing the South is the economic problem. If we can get a better balance between agriculture and industry, equalization of freight rates, and full employment at fair wages, we can really have the new south which is so long overdue."

Dr. Johnson named two other pressing problems in the South in the postwar era as "fair play for veterans, white and colored" and a "more impartial administration of the law." The law, he said, should be "color blind."

Gov. Caldwell said it was his personal opinion the killing of the negro at Madison did not come within the definition of lynching, and amplified:

"The ordeal of bringing a young and innocent victim of rape into open court and subjecting her to detailed cross examination by defense counsel could easily be as great an injury as the original crime. This fact probably accounts for a number of killing or lynchings which might otherwise be avoided. Society has not found a solution to this problem."

# ONE LYNCHING WAS REPORTED IN PAST YEAR

## Georgia Killing Termed Homicide By Caldwell In Yearly Report

Atlanta, Dec. 31 (AP).—A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching reported so far this year by Tuskegee Institute and the govenor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231 lynchings. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

By 1939 there were only three lynchings in two states. In 1940 the figure rose to five, but dropped to four in 1941. In 1942 there were five again, in 1943 three and in 1944 two.

The lynching recorded this year involved a negro taken from an unguarded jail and shot to death.

He had been indicted for attempting to rape a five-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The grand jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

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This drew a quick statement from Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial southern group of southern editors, churchmen and others working for betterment of racial relations.

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida reserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial.

Dr. Johnson added that the 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quitely by two or three persons rather than a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

Birmingham, Ala. Age-Herald
December 31, 1945

T 28

MONDAY, DECEMBER

# SINGLE LYNCHING NOTED FOR YEAR

ATLANTA, Dec. 30 —(AP)— A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded so far this year by Tuskegee Institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231 lynchings. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

By 1939 there were only three lynchings in two states. In 1940 the figure rose to five, but dropped to four in 1941. In 1942 there were five again, in 1943 three and in 1944, two.

The lynching recorded this year involved a Negro taken from an unguarded jail and shot to death.

He had been indicted for attempting to rape a 5-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The Grand Jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahassee yesterday, Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

This drew a quick statement from Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial Southern group of Southern editors, churchmen and others working for betterment of racial relations.

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

Dr. Johnson added that the 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The S. R. C. director said, however, that "the old style lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He added:

"I believe that if we use our common sense here in the South we can avoid a repetition of the period of Ku Kluxism and lynching which we had after World War I.

Dr. Johnson named two other pressing problems in the South in the postwar era as "fair play for veterans, white and colored" and a "more impartial administration of the law." The law, he said, should be "color blind."

MACON, GA.
Telegraph and News
DEC 30 1945

# Single Lynching Recorded In U. S. During the Year

## Florida's Governor Questions Classification of That Case

ATLANTA, Dec. 29 [AP]—A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded by Tuskegee Institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching. Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

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The lynching recorded this year involved a Negro taken from an unguarded jail at Madison, Fla., and shot to death.

He had been indicted for attempting to rape a five-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The grand jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahassee today, Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

This drew a quick statement from Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial Southern group of Southern editors, churchmen and others working for betterment of racial relations.

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "But I think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in the case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

**BORDER-LINE CASES**

Dr. Johnson added that the 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed heard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The SRC director said, however, that "the old style lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out."

He added:

"I believe that if we use our common sense here in the South we can avoid a repetition of the period of Ku Kluxism and lynching which we had after World War I.

"The biggest problem facing the South is the economic problem. If we can get a better balance between agriculture and industry, equalization of freight rates, and full employment at fair wages, we can really have the new South which is so long overdue.

"When there is economic security, people of all classes or races will get along better together."

**CALDWELL AMPLIFIES**

Dr. Johnson named two other pressing problems in the South in the pastwar era as "fair play for veterans, white and colored" and a "more impartial administration of the law." The law, he said, should be "color blind."

Gov. Caldwell said it was his personal opinion the killing of the Negro at Madison did not come within the definition of lynching, and amplified:

"The ordeal of bringing a young and innocent victim of rape into open court and subjecting her to detailed cross examination by defense counsel could easily be as great an injury as the original crime.

"This fact probably accounts for a number of killings or lynchings which might otherwise be avoided. Society has not found a solution to this problem."

DEC 30

# One Lynching in 1945 Reported

## Florida Governor Questions Designation Of Shooting

ATLANTA.—AP— A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded so far this year by Tuskegee Institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231 lynchings. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

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The lynchings recorded this year involved a negro taken from an unguarded jail and shot to death.

He had been indicted for attempting to rape a five-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The grand jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahassee Saturday Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

47o-1945

Reports On

ATLANTA, GA.
JOURNAL
Circ. D. 193,592 - S. 247,384
DEC 30 1945

# LYNCHLESS AMERICA ALMOST ACHIEVED

## Argument Develops Whether Florida Case Belongs in Lynching Category

By HENRY LESESNE, Associated Press Writer

A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded so far this year by Tuskegee Institute and the Governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231 lynchings. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

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The lynching recorded this year involved a Negro taken from an unguarded jail and shot to death.

He had been indicted for attempting to criminally attack a five-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The grand jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahassee Saturday Governor Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

**Terms It Lynching**

This drew a quick statement from Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a biracial Southern group of Southern editors, churchmen and others working for betterment of racial relations.

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the Governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

Dr. Johnson added that the 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The S. E. C. director said, however, that "the old style mob lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He added:

"I believe that if we use our common sense here in the South we can avoid a repetition of the period of Ku Kluxism and lynching which we had after World War I.

**Refers to Ku Klux**

"The biggest problem facing the South is the economic problem. If we can get a better balance between agriculture and industry, equalization of freight rates, and full employment at fair wages, we can really have the new South which is so long overdue.

"When there is economic security, people of all classes or races will get along better together."

Dr. Johnson named two other pressing problems in the South in the postwar era as "fair play for veterans, white and colored" and a "more impartial administration of the law." The law, he said, should be "color blind."

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
UNION (Morning)
Circ. D. 82,265
DEC 31 1945

**LYNCHING DECLINES**

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 30 (AP) —One lynching was recorded by Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research during 1945. The victim was identified only as "a Negro farm hand" removed from a Florida jail "by a mob" after he had been arrested on a charge of attempt to rape. The institute's annual report said two lynchings were recorded last year, three in 1943, and five in 1942.

Knoxville Tenn. Journal
December 30, 1945

# One Lynching Recorded In '45 Is Questionable

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In Tallahassee today, Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

[redacted]

LOW IN LYNCHINGS

# One Doubtful Lynch Case In U.S. for '45

By HENRY LESESNE,
Associated Press Staff Writer.

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**CALLS IT LYNCHING**

In Tallahassee Saturday Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

This drew a quick statement from Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial southern group of southern editors, churchmen and others working for betterment of racial relations.

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

**NO SOLUTION SEEN**

Gov. Caldwell said it was his personal opinion the killing of the Negro at Madison did not come within the definition of lynching, and amplified:

"The ordeal of bringing a young and innocent victim of rape into open court and subjecting her to detailed cross examination by defense counsel could easily be as great an injury as the original crime.

"This fact probably accounts for a number of killings or lynchings which might otherwise be avoided. Society has not found a solution to this problem."

Albany Ga Herald
December 30, 1945

# One Lynching Recorded in '45, Tuskegee Says

By HENRY LESEESNE,

ATLANTA, Dec. 29 (AP.)—A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded by Tuskegee Institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

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"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

Doctor Johnson added that the 1945 record is not good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The SRC director said, however, that "the old style mob lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He added:

**Can Avoid Lynchings**

"I believe that if we use our common sense here in the South we can avoid a repetition of the period of Ku Kluxism and lynching which we had after World War I.

"The biggest problem facing the South is the economic problem. If we can get a better balance between agriculture and industry, equalization of freight rates, and full employment at fair wages, we can really have the new South which is so long overdue.

"When there is economic security, people of all classes or races will get along better together."

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"This fact probably accounts for a number of killings or lynchings which might otherwise be avoided. Society has not found a solution to this problem."

7272

CLEVELAND, TENN.
BANNER
Circ. D. 3,985

DEC 31 1945

## Only One Lynching in Nation During Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31 (U.P.)—Tuskegee Institute recorded only one lynching throughout the nation in 1945, Dr. F. D. Patterson president, reported today.

Dr. Patterson said that a research conducted annually by the Institute showed that lynchings had steadily decreased since 1942 when five were recorded. There were three in 1943 and two in 1944.

The single lynching occurred in Florida when a Negro farm hand was taken from the Madison county jail and shot to death on a charge of assault with attempt to rape, Dr. Patterson said.

Savannah, Ga. News
December 30, 1945

# FLORIDA HAD ONLY LYNCHING

## FEWER EVERY YEAR

### Negro Was Taken From Jail at Madison, Fla.

BY HENRY LESESNE

ATLANTA, Dec. 29 (AP).—A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded so far by Tuskegee Institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

By 1939 there were only three lynchings in two states. In 1940 the figure rose to five, but dropped to four in 1941. In 1942 there were five again, in 1943 three and in 1944 two.

The lynching recorded this year involved a negro taken from an unguarded jail at Madison, Fla., and shot to death.

He had been indicted for attempting to rape a five-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The grand jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahassee today Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

This drew a quick statement from Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial Southern group of Southern editors, churchmen and others working for betterment of racial relations.

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

Dr. Johnson added that the 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The SRC director said, however, that "the old style mob lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He added:

"I believe that if we use our common sense here in the South we can avoid a repetition of the period of Ku Kluxism and lynching which we had after World War I.

"The biggest problem facing the South is the economic problem. If we can get a better balance between agriculture and industry, equalization of freight rates, and full employment at fair wages, we can really have the New South which is so long overdue.

"When there is economic security, people of all classes or races will get along better together."

Dr. Johnson named two other pressing problems in the South in the postwar era as "fair play for veterans, white and colored" and a "more impartial administration of the law." The law, he said, should be "color blind."

Gov. Caldwell said it was his personal opinion the killing of the negro at Madison did not come within the delinition of lynching, and amplified:

"The ordeal of bringing a young and innocent victim of rape into open court and subjecting her to detailed cross examination by defense counsel could easily be as great an injury as the original crime.

"This fact probably accounts for a number of killings or lynchings which might otherwise be avoided. Society has not found a solution to this problem."

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
December 30, 1945

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COLUMBIA, S. C.
RECORD
Circ. D. 32,477

JAN 3 1946

## Only 1 Lynching Recorded In 1945

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ST. LOUIS, MO. STAR TIMES

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MEMPHIS, TENN.
COMMERCIAL APPEAL
Circ. D. 145,000 - S. 185,715

JAN 6 1946

ONE LYNCHING IN 1945

To The Commercial Appeal:

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and search of the Tuskegee Institute there was one person lynched in 1945.

This is one person less than in 1944; two less than in 1943; four less than in 1942, and two less than in 1941.

The person lynched was a negro farm hand. He was removed from the county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key. He was then taken about seven miles from town and shot to death.

The charge was assault with attempt to rape, and the state in which the lynching occurred was Florida.

F. D. PATTERSON.
President.

# ONE LYNCHING IN U. S. DURING '45

## This Compares With 231 In 1892 And Two In Year 1944

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CLEVELAND, TENN. BANNER
DEC. 31, 1945

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7273

# Only One 1945 Lynching On Record At Tuskegee

## Florida Governor Says Incident Was Outside Recognized Definition

By HENRY LESESNE

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"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The SRC director said, however, that "the old style mob lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He added:

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"When there is economic security, people of all classes or races will get along better together."

Dr. Johnson named two other pressing problems in the south in the postwar era as "fair play for veterans, white and colored" and a "more impartial administration of the law." The law, he said, should be "color blind."

Gov. Caldwell said it was his personal opinion the killing of the Negro at Madison did not come within the definition of lynching, and amplified:

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ATLANTA CONSTITUTION
Circ. D. 110,000 - S. 204,000
DEC 30 1945

# Lynchings Decrease To One In 1945, Tuskegee Records

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**Prisoner Shot**

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**Problem Is Economic**

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CHARLOTTE, N. C.
OBSERVER
Circ. D. 103,867 - S. 114,607
DEC 30 1945

# LONE LYNCHING STAGED IN '45

## Governor of Florida Questions Whether Killing of Negro Was of This Type.

BY HENRY LESESNE

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## One Lynching in 1945

To The News and Courier:

I send you the following information concerning lynching for the year 1945. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there was one person lynched in 1945.

This is one person less than the number two for the year 1944; two less than the number three for the year 1943; four less than the number five for the year 1942, and two less than the number three for the year 1941.

The person lynched was a negro farm hand. He was removed from the county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key. He was then taken about seven miles from town and shot to death.

The charge was assault with attempt to rape, and the state in which the lynching occurred was Florida.

F. D. PATTERSON,
(President.)
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

JAN. 2, 1946 — 11A
ST. LOUIS, MO. POST DISPATCH

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The charge against him was assault with attempt to rape. The lynching occurred in Florida.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President, Tuskegee Institute.
Tuskegee, Ala.

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# LONE LYNCHING LISTED FOR '45

### That One, in Florida, Was Homicide, Governor of State Maintains

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**Negro Taken From Jail**

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He had been indicted for attempting to criminally assault a 5-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The grand jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

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This drew a quick statement from Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a biracial southern group of southern editors, churchmen and others working for betterment of racial relations.

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The SRC director said, however, that "the old-style mob lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He added:

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# Single Lynching Case Reported By Institute In Year Now Ending

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# SINGLE LYNCHING NOTED FOR YEAR

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## One Lynching But—

Atlanta Daily World

In his recent announcement of the findings of the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee, Dr. F. D. Patterson indicated that there was only one lynching for 1945. This was one less than the number lynched in 1943. There were five lynchings in 1942 as compared with three in the year 1941.

Editorial

On its face, this represents an encouraging and definite trend, indicative of an awakened determination on the part of law enforcement officers, together with vigorous efforts of the white daily newspapers of the South and responsible local organizations, to blot out this evil practice and thus clear the good name of the South.

For this favorable trend toward sanity and justice in the South, Negroes have much to be thankful. Nevertheless, even when the record has been reduced to absolute zero, there still remains for most southern communities, a grave threat to their security in the widespread police brutality, not only practiced upon Negro returning soldiers but civilians as well. We speak sincerely when we say there is no single present day evil which generates more unfriendly and hostile racial feelings and distrust in our southern communities than this police brutality. It is both dangerous and explosive. It should be checked.

[redacted]

## ONLY ONE LYNCHING

Editorial

Tuskegee Institute listed only one lynching in 1945. The Governor of Florida, in which state that lynching occurred, denied that it was in fact a lynching. A Negro indicted for an attempted attack on a five-year-old white girl was taken from an unguarded jail and shot to death.

Dr. Guy Johnson, director of the Southern Regional Conference, said in Atlanta that the Florida case was in fact a lynching, but that the Governor of Florida deserved praise for trying in vain to apprehend the lynchers.

Dr. Johnson added that the old-time lynchings, where sadism and horror carried the mob along to horrible excesses, "is on the way out." Insofar as 1945 is concerned, there were no such lynchings.

In 1932 there were 231 lynchings. In 1942 there were 28. In 1945 there was only one. The chief danger spot for racial blood-letting is not in the South any longer, but in other parts of the country where such things are called "race riots."

The steady economic improvement in the South is largely responsible. Education is another factor. A widespread effort of officers of the law and high officials in the South to stamp out the evil is still another. And in 1945 there was only a single incident to mar a perfect record.

Savannah Ga. News
January 3, 1946

## *One Lynching in 1945*

Editorial

According to the annual announcement of the Tuskegee Institute the South was marked by but one lynching in 1945, and that was in Florida, a reminder that this section of the country can no longer be identified with such types of murder in a big way.

In 1892, the institute points out, there were 231, an all-time high record. In 1933 there were 28 in eleven states, and in 1944 there were only two.

The South thus would appear to have virtually removed this blot from its escutcheon, which should be the case, and it is to be hoped that in the future there will be no case of lynching.

Thoughtful Americans meanwhile will also hope that our Northern urban centers will, with equal success, get rid of the mass gangster killings and epidemics of homicides which have broken out within their borders—a hope which we confess is prompted by the remembrance that while failing to keep their own houses in order they have, with holier-than-thou attitudes, seen fit to try to make it appear that the South is the most lawless section in the nation.

MEMPHIS, TENN.
COMMERCIAL APPEAL
Circ. D. 145,000 - S. 185,715
JAN 8 1946

## Progress For Law And Order

There was but one lynching in the United States during 1945, according to Tuskegee Institute, which keeps check on such offenses against society.

While even that was one too many, it does demonstrate that the gains made toward elimination of lynching are not being lost. Law enforcement is infinitely more conscious of its responsibilities toward prisoners and more and more is the theory and practice of summary justice becoming repugnant to the public mind.

There might have been more than one lynching last year had not courageous individual peace officers placed their own lives in jeopardy in safeguarding the lives of prisoners. That, to us, is one of the most encouraging of all the antilynching gains. The mob has never been formed which could take a prisoner away from a peace officer with courage, resourcefulness and intelligence, if that officer did not want to give him up. That type of officer, we are glad to say, predominates.

A national law enforcement record without even one lynching is possible. Law enforcement's own progress convinces us that it will ultimately be attained.

[redacted]

## ONLY ONE LYNCHING

DISAPPEARANCE of lynching as an American custom is indicated by the annual report of the Tuskegee Institute. There was just one lynching in the United States in 1945. That was a case in Florida, of the usual sort—a Negro had raped a white woman.

Editorial

The Institute says that there were two lynchings in 1944; three in 1943; five in 1942; three in 1941. This seems to show that there may, this year or next, be a twelve months without lynchings.

The right conclusion seems to be that there is general improvement in execution of the law and in the public disposition to refrain from violence. Perhaps there is undue emphasis upon the fact that so few are lynched, and there is lack of information as to increase or decrease of the crime which usually causes lynchings. We hope the report will prove to be a balanced one and that it will be shown there are not only fewer lynchings but fewer provocations for mob violence.

GREENVILLE, S. C.
PIEDMONT
Cir. D. 20,500
JAN 1 - 1946

## One Too Many

Tuskegee Institute, which has served as a recognized but unofficial keeping of lynching records for many years, reports that 1945 was marred by a single lynching.

A Florida mob removed a negro from a jail and killed him. He was charged with criminal assault.

For the four years previous to 1945 there was an average of three lynchings a year.

Editorial

Last year's record, therefore, stands out as an improvement over the recent past and a very great advance over the record made by mobs years ago.

One lynching is one too many. Yet the fact that during five years there have been but 13 indicates that the South is gradually getting away from this lawless practice.

It is to be hoped that none will occur during the good new year of 1946.

[redacted]

## LYNCHING: A RECORD LOW

(Norfolk Virginian-Pilot)

Tuskegee Institute's compilation lists only one lynching in the United States in 1945. This is a record low. It is one less than in 1944; two less than in 1943; four less than in 1942; and two less than in 1941.

The crime of mob murder has declined steadily since the turn of the century when the toll of victims hovered around 100 and reached in one year 130. The one lynching of 1945 took place in Florida. The victim was a Negro farm hand who was snatched from a county jail by a band who entered it.

mysteriously, with a key. It was a blot on Florida law enforcement that no member of the mob has been apprehended and no information discovered as to how the lynchers obtained a key to the jail.

There is cause for gratification in the 1945 record, but none for complacency. A better record is possible for 1946: no lynchings at all. One looks forward to the day when this revolting crime against life and law will be uprooted from the American scene.

COLUMBIA, S. C.
STATE
JAN 2 - 1946

## FLORIDA FURNISHES THE ONLY BLOT

Tuskeegee, which in recent years has not been as careful always in its definition of lynching as the institute was in its earlier days, reports there was only one lynching in the country last year, and while THE STATE regrets there was even one and hopes for the day when the score will be none, it is a long way that we have come to reduce the total to a single tragedy. So far as we know, this is the best record since lynching became prevalent.

The drop in numbers has been gradual. There were two lynchings in 1944, three in 1943, five in 1942 and three in 1941.

Twenty years ago, 1925, there were 16 lynchings, which number at that time equaled the low record for about half a century established in 1924.

But all of these lynchings and oll of those occurring in recent years have occurred outside South Carolina. There was none in this state in 1925, there was none in 1945 and there hasn't been one in this state since the '20s.

The blot of lynching is being erased. And if Florida officials would see that those who took part in the lynching down there last year were brought to the bar of justice and punished for taking the law into their own hands, there might not be any lynchings at all in 1946.

Madison, Ga. Madisonian
January 11, 1946

## Only One Lynching In U. S. The Past Year

### Have Been Steadily Declining Each Year From a High of 231 in 1892

There was only one lynching recorded by Tuskegee Institute in 1945, according to announcement, and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

By 1939 there were only three lynchings in two states. In 1940 the figure rose to five, but dropped to four in 1941. In 1942 there were five again, in 1943 three, and in 1944 two.

The lynching recorded last year involved a negro taken from an unguarded jail at Madison, Fla., and shot to death.

He had been indicted for attempting to rape a five year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The grand jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahaseee Governor Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

This drew a quick statement from Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a biracial group.

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said "but think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

BUTTE, MONT.
POST
Cir. D. 11,390
JAN 2 - 1946

## Lynching Record Best In 45 Years

One of the encouraging year-end reports reaching the Post editorial desk is that of the Tuskegee Institute showing that there was only one lynching in the United States in 1945. It was the best record that has been made in the 45 years that the noted Negro institution has been compiling statistics on lynchings.

In 1900, the first year of the Tuskegee records, 115 persons were victims of lynch law and the high point of the period was reached the next year with 130 such crimes. For many years the annual mob toll ran into the scores, but in the last decade the number has been greatly reduced. In 1936 there were nine lynchings and in 1942 there were five. In 1944 there were two.

Various factors have contributed to the improvement. The principal one is the determined effort by organizations and individuals, supported by practically the whole Southern press, to awaken public consciousness to the gravity of permitting mob action. It is reflected in fewer attempts by persons to take the law into their hands and a greater disposition by authorities to frustrate such attempts.

Proposals to enact a federal anti-lynching law have precipitated some of the bitterest congressional fights of recent years. It would seem that they could well be dropped now, and so remove one fertile source of factional differences. The public is solving the problem.

[redacted]

## LYNCHING AND LOOSE "CLEMENCY"

According to the annual report of Tuskegee Institute, negro college which has carefully kept the records of lynchings of both blacks and whites in the United States over many years, there was only one successful lynching attempt by mobs in the United States in 1945. The single lynching for the year occurred in Florida, and was that of a negro accused of raping a white woman.

Such a decline in lynchings is a matter for self-congratulation on the part of both races. The records not so many years ago showed lynchings running into the dozens. Of late years, through the steady process of education, through the increasing public demands that sheriffs and other peace officers do their sworn duty in protecting those persons accused of crime from mob attack, and through better racial understanding especially in the south, the number of those lynched has been declining rapidly . . in 1944, only two persons were lynch victims, in 1943, only three; in 1942, five.

This record gives hope that soon, in 1946, let it be hoped, this nation will have wholly eliminated successful resort to lynch "law," of both whites and negroes.

Guilty or not, the person of any race accused of crime, either by mobs or by formal authorities, is entitled under the American system of justice to a fair trial before duly constituted authorities. Whatever excuse may have existed in distant days for "law enforcement" by vigilantes, or other forms of mobs has long since passed. The law has moved "west of the Pecos" and elsewhere throughout the United States. And the problem today is not that so much of apprehending or convicting the guilty through due process, but, particularly in Oklahoma, of keeping the duly convicted behind bars as ordered by juries and judges.

The real complaint of law-abiding people today is not that accused criminals are not caught or duly ordered punished, but that authorities, is entitled under the American agencies such as Oklahoma's governor and pardon board arbitrarily and for dubious reasons, choose to set aside the studied judgment of the courts, and release the worst of felons upon society. In the long run, time has proved our courts to be trustworthy; and

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Atlanta Ga. World
January 12, 1946

of race, color, or creed — without tax or artificial restriction of any kind. The sooner we get to that basis of political equality, the

## One Lynching But—

In his recent announcement of the findings of the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee, Dr. F. D. Patterson indicated that there was only one lynching for 1945. This was one less than the number lynched in 1943. There were five lynchings in 1942, as compared with three in the year 1941.

On its face, this represents an encouraging and definite trend, indicative of an awakened determination on the part of law enforcement officers, together with vigorous efforts of the white daily newspapers of the South and responsible local organizations, to blot out this evil practice and thus clear the good name of the South.

For this favorable trend toward sanity and justice in the South, Negroes have much to be thankful. Nevertheless, even when the record has been reduced to absolute zero, there still remains for most southern communities, a grave threat to their security in the widespread police brutality, not only practiced upon Negro returning soldiers but civilians as well. We speak sincerely when we say there is no single present day evil which generates more unfriendly and hostile racial feelings and distrust in our southern communities than this police brutality. It is both dangerous and explosive. It should be checked.

## One Mob Murder

DURING MORE than 50 years, in which it has kept a record of lynch-murders for the entire country, Tuskegee Institute now comes closest to reporting a clean slate for an entire calendar year.

Only one lynching occurred in 1945. That showing is compared with two such outrages in 1944 and three in 1943. Apparently, the record is steadily improving. By that token, there should be no lynchings in 1946.

Before this, however, the Nation has approached the goal which all decent citizens desire—only to be shamed by a relapse into "the law of the jungle." Too easily, the backwash of the war may bring a wave of mob murders, such as followed World War I. To be sure, so long as the Ku Klux Klan shall not rear its ugly form, there is hope.

The only lynching victim in 1945 (the Tuskegee record shows) was a Negro farm hand charged with attempted rape upon a white woman. The mob entered a county jail (in Florida), which was unguarded, with a key, took the victim to a country road and shot him to death.

In all likelihood, a show of resistance by the sheriff would have checked the mob and kept the slate clean for 1945. Significantly, over Tuskegee's 50-odd years, Florida—next to Mississippi—has the second-worst lynch-murder record; but Texas is in no position to throw stones.

## A NEW TYPE OF LYNCHING

A new definition of "lynching" is needed. Illegal intimidation and abuse of those who lack position and prestige on account of race or economic condition" is the proper way to express the new interpretation of "lynching" that is needed.

The annual summary of lynchings kept by Tuskegee Institute has just come to The Advertiser. President F. D. Patterson has this to say:

"I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there was one person lynched in 1945.

"This is one person less than the number two for the year 1944; two less than the number three for the year 1945; four less than the number five for the year 1942; and two less than the number three for the year 1941.

"The person lynched was a Negro farm hand. He was removed from the county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key. He was then taken about seven miles from town and shot to death.

"The charge was assault with attempt to rape, and the state in which the lynching occurred was Florida."

That is, in some ways, an admirable record. Lynchings have declined at the rate of one a year for the past four years. If the trend continues as it should, there will be no lynchings (according to the old definition) next year.

For more than the four years cited in the above letter lynchings in the old sense have been practically negligible. This is not a cold-blooded comment disregarding the rights of those who have been lynched. In the individual sense no such despicable assault upon the rights of man can be considered negligible, but in the long-view of Southern development, this small number can be considered negligible.

However, not reflected in the "lynching" tabulation are the innumerable vicious attacks upon those who cannot retaliate physically or through the courts. The fact that such attacks do not result in death does in no wise change the fact that a certain sort of "lynch" law protests the attacker.

Recently The Advertiser related second hand (from an unimpeachable eye-witness) such a lynching. The victim never came forward to identify himself. A few white people took the trouble to say that The Advertiser was to be commended for its effort. One colored person took the trouble to write and say about the same thing.

The net result was near zero.

The victim of that assault is, as far as we know, still licking his wounds in silence.

The perpetrators of that "lynching" are still free and unpunished.

The decent folks of the South, white and black, have a problem on their hands. Extremists from both societies are out to cause trouble. Lynchings in the ordinary sense are just about a thing of the past, but that is not the final answer to the matter of living together in harmony.

The Advertiser does not pretend to know all the answers. It is a fact that prior to World War II a rather solid relationship was taking shape in accordance with a mutually satisfactory pattern.

The war has really changed few things in basic human relationships in this community. However, there is a new temper that can be sensed.

Even the most level-headed of the Negro leaders are not immune to the hectic compulsion. Recently The Advertiser received a note from one of its Negro friends that had a tone of bitterness totally out of character with previous relationships.

The Advertiser has further noted white men who are careless and un-understanding in their view of the Negro position. The men observed never before were of that character.

The trouble seems to be that the extremists on both sides hold sway.

It is time that reasonable and decent men, black and white, got together and charted a course satisfactory to both.

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Form of punishment seems about to pass permanently from the national scene.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
December 30, 1945

# Lynchless America Almost Becomes Reality In 1945

ATLANTA, Dec. 29.—(AP)—A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded by Tuskegee Institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231. That was the all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

By 1939 there were only three lynchings in two states. In 1940 the figure rose to five, but dropped to four in 1941. In 1942 there were five again, in 1943 three and in 1944 two.

The lynching recorded this year involved a negro taken from an unguarded jail at Madison, Fla., and shot to death.

He had been indicted for attempting to rape a five-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The Grand Jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

Editorial

In Tallahassee today, Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

This drew a quick statement from Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial southern group of Southern editors, churchmen and others working for betterment of racial relations.

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

Dr. Johnson added that the 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The SRC director said, however, that "the old style mob lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He added:

"I believe that if we use our common sense here in the South we can avoid a repetition of the period of Ku Kluxism and lynching which we had after World War I.

"The biggest problem facing the South is the economic problem. If we can get a better balance between agriculture and industry, equalization of freight rates, and full employment at fair wages, we can really have the new South which is so long overdue.

"When there is economic security, people of all classes or races will get along better together."

Dr. Johnson named two other pressing problems in the south in the postwar era as "fair play for veterans, white and colored" and a "more impartial administration of the law." The law, he said, should be "color blind."

Gov. Caldwell said it was his personal opinion the killing of the negro at Madison did not come within the definition of lynching, and amplified:

"The ordeal of bringing a young and innocent victim of rape into open court and subjecting her to detailed cross examination by defense counsel could easily be as great an injury as the original crime.

"This fact probably accounts for a number of killings or lynchings which might otherwise be avoided. Society has not found a solution to this problem."

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December 30, 1945

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A new definition of "lynching" is needed

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That is, in some ways, an admirable record. Lynchings have declined at the rate of one a year for the past four years. If the trend continues as it should, there will be no lynchings (according to the old definition) next year.

For more than the four years cited in the above letter lynchings in the old sense have been practically negligible. This is not a cold-blooded comment disregarding the rights of those who have been lynched. In the individual sense no such despicable assault upon the rights of man can be considered negligible, but in the long-view of Southern development, this small number can be considered negligible.

However, not reflected in the "lynching" tabulation are the innumerable vicious attacks upon those who cannot retaliate physically or through the courts. The fact that such attacks do not result in death does in no wise change the fact that a certain sort of "lynch" law protects the attacker.

Recently The Advertiser related second hand (from an unimpeachable eye-witness) such a lynching. The victim never came forward to identify himself. A few white people took the trouble to say that The Advertiser was to be commended for its effort. One colored person took the trouble to write and say about the same thing.

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The perpetrators of that "lynching" are still free and unpunished.

The decent folks of the South, white and black, have a problem on their hands. Extremists from both societies are out to cause trouble. Lynchings in the ordinary sense are just about a thing of the past, but that is not the final answer to the matter of living together in harmony.

The Advertiser does not pretend to know all the answers. It is a fact that prior to World War II a rather solid relationship was taking shape in accordance with a mutually satisfactory pattern.

The war has really changed few things in basic human relationships in this community. However, there is a new temper that can be sensed.

Even the most level-headed of the Negro leaders are not immune to the hectic compulsion. Recently The Advertiser received a note from one of its Negro friends that had a tone of bitterness totally out of character with previous relationships.

The Advertiser has further noted white men who are careless and un-understanding in their view of the Negro position. The men observed never before were of that character.

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BIRMINGHAM ALA. NEWS
JAN. 1, 1946

## An End To Lynchings?

The year which just closed came near to being the first on record in which there was not a single lynching in the United States. For only one such crime was reported during 1945 and even that one is not classified as a lynching by the governor of the state in which it occurred.

On the other hand, Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial group working for betterment of racial relations, says there were several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify. "When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The SRC director said, however, that "the old style mob lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He added:

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JACKSON MISS. CLARION
JAN. 2, 1946

## One U. S. Lynching in 1945 But None In Mississippi

Christian and human Southern citizens, social, civic, and political leaders of all Southern states, including Mississippi, welcome Tuskegee Institute's report that there was only one lynching in the United States during 1945, a new low record.

This one lynching was charged to Florida, but Florida's governor denies that it was a lynching, claiming it "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching." If Governor Caldwell's contention is well founded, then 1945 was the first lynchless year in modern American history. It was not the first year without a lynching in Mississippi but that fact does not lessen pride and pleasure in the record.

Not more than five lynchings have been reported in any year since 1938, only three being reported in 1939, five in 1940, four in 1941, five in 1942, three in 1943, and just two in 1944. These records contrast with 231 lynchings in 1892 and climax a steady decline over the past 20 years, a decline inspired and sustained in the South by missionary work and public opinion, not by outside pressure or threats.

Perhaps in the light to this trend and record, the radical groups demanding enactment of Federal anti-lynching legislation will refrain from raising the issue again during the congressional sessions this year, but it is improbable that they will exercise this much discretion and intelligence.

BIRMINGHAM ALA. AGE-HERALD
JAN. 2, 1946

## Decrease In Lynchings

It is only by a broad interpretation of the word lynching that the United States was kept in 1945 from a perfect record in regard to that crime. The one single crime charged up as a lynching by Tuskegee Institute, in its annual compilation of lynching figures is subject to possible doubt.

Certainly the year just past had no lynchings of a sort that formerly disgraced the nation, where mobs gathered, seized some victim on whom to wreak their collective hate, and publicly burned or hanged him. That sort of thing probably has gone forever from this country. Public condemnation of it is too strong now.

There is still, however, need for protection against crimes like the one committed during the year in Florida when a small group of men seized a Negro prisoner in an unguarded jail and shot him. There was no mob scene, no public spectacle. The governor of Florida, jealous of the reputation of his state, thinks the deed should not have been called a lynching. That is a matter of opinion and, perhaps, of technical definition.

The fact, however, that concern can be shown over the application of the term lynching to this event shows that the nation has come far in public disapproval of lynching. There is little public effort now to condone such deeds. The stigma of a crime rests certainly upon them and upon all who participate in them.

Let it be emphasized once more, too, that the lynching problem seems in process of solution without federal legislation. It is difficult to see the need of congressional action against a crime of which there was only one example in a year and that one not certainly classified as a lynching.

SHREVEPORT LA. TIMES
JAN. 1, 1946

# ONE LYNCHING WAS REPORTED IN PAST YEAR

### Georgia Killing Termed Homicide By Caldwell In Yearly Report

Atlanta, Dec. 31 (AP).—A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching reported so far this year by Tuskegee Institute and the govenor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In the year 1892 there were 231 lynchings. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

By 1939 there were only three lynchings in two states. In 1940 the figure rose to five, but dropped to four in 1941. In 1942 there were five again, in 1943 three and in 1944 two.

The lynching reported this year involved a negro taken from an unguarded jail and shot to death.

He had been indicted for attempting to rape a five-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The grand jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahassee today Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

This drew a quick statement from Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial southern group of southern editors, churchmen and others working for betterment of racial relations.

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida reserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial.

Dr. Johnson added that the 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quitely by two or three persons rather than a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

[redacted]
POST
DEC 1 - 1945

NEAR THE END

The report from Tuskegee Institute that only one lynching occurred in the United States in 1945 will be hailed as the last step toward the eradication of a shameful evil. The pattern has been one of steady decline for some time, as there were five lynchings in 1942, three in 1943 and two in 1944. This further improvement in the record of the last year can only mean that we have about seen the end of this distinctly un-American practice. No one will miss its passing.

[redacted]
JAN 1-1946

## PREPOSTEROUS, MR. GOVERNOR

In Sunday's paper there was a piece of good news. Tuskegee Institute's annual report on lynchings showed that in the entire U. S. there was only one such crime in 1945, as against two in 1944, three in 1943, and five in 1942. Apparently we are making progress towards civilization.

But in this connection there was also bad news. The single 1945 lynching was in Florida. It happened in October in Madison County.

In a letter to an Encyclopedia Britannica writer who wrote Gov. Caldwell for information in connection with the preparation of an article on lynchings for the Encyclopedia's 1945 yearbook, the state's Chief Executive said the Madison affair "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

According to the Tuskegee report on what happened in Madison the person lynched was a negro farmhand. He was removed from the County jail by a mob which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key. He was taken about seven miles from town and shot to death.

Said the Tampa Tribune in an editorial: "Investigation brought out the facts that, although there was strong probability of an attempt at lynching, the jail in which the prisoner was incarcerated was left entirely without guard or other protection overnight; that the killers had a key to the jail enclosure and removed their victim without interference, although the Sheriff, Lonnie Davis, lived nearby. Gov. Caldwell contented himself with giving the Sheriff a mere slap on the wrist. He said the Sheriff was guilty of negligence and 'ineptitude,' but that these were not sufficient evidence to justify the officer's suspension. The usual pretense of trying to identify members of the mob brought the usual result—nothing. The question everybody asked, 'How did the mob get possession of the jail keys?' has not been answered. The Sheriff is still in office, the lynchers unnamed and unpunished.

"So Florida suffers the discredit of the one lynching in 1945—with the added stigma of doing nothing about it."

In his letter to the Encyclopedia writer—R. B. Eleazer, of the Methodist church General Board of Education in Nashville—Caldwell sustained his position by saying that "the ordeal of bringing a young and innocent victim of rape into open court and subjecting her to detailed cross-examination by defense counsel could easily be as great an injury as the original crime." This may be true and there is no question that consideration of the five-year-old victim was desirable. But the Governor apparently doesn't consider equally important the injury done to the fair name of a great state by the condoning of the infliction of the death penalty without due process of law or the injury to the mental attitudes of the citizens of Madison county and their children by a toleration of mob violence, whatever the circumstances.

The incident contrasts in spirit most unfavorably with ex-Gov. Holland's firm handling of the affair at Quincy, where a lynching was prevented and parties whose guilt was equally obvious, were tried and executed in a Constitutional manner.

The Governor says that his comment on the case—and, he implies, his do-nothing policy—"is in line with my policy of holding the citizens of a county responsible for the officials they elect to office."

He had said previously that although Sheriff Davis "has in this case proved his unfitness for the office, he was nevertheless the choice of the people. Stupidity and ineptitude are not sufficient grounds for removal of an elected official by the Governor."

Up to a certain point there may be some justification for this "you've-made-your-bed-now-lie-in-it" attitude towards the people of the several counties. We have seen in the past in Florida that injustices can come from a peremptory "off with his head" policy indiscriminately exercised by the Chief Executive. But it is the duty of the Governor to see to it that officials empowered to act in the name of the State of Florida uphold and enforce the law. The Dade County Grand jury has made it clear that that is their conception of the Governor's duty in case it is proved to their satisfaction that the sheriff of that county is guilty of winking at the gambling laws.

We are forced in connection with the Governor's laissez-faire attitude toward public officials to recall the occasion on which Caldwell, having commuted the sentence of an unfortunate Italian-American, who had been subjected to torture in a sweatbox in Jackson county, refrained from removing a sadistic sheriff on the grounds that the publicity incurred was enough rebuke.

At any rate it is patent to us that a sheriff who leaves a prisoner unguarded in jail when he must have known there was danger of mob violence should be removed from office. We are not satisfied with a report that he was simply stupid and inept.

The Governor's rationalization of his position in the lynching matter seems to us not merely curious, but preposterous. We had thought better of Millard Caldwell.—H. M. D.

NORFOLK, VA.
VIRGINIAN-PILOT
Cir. D. 77,505—S. 79,630
JAN 6 1946

## Lynching: a Record Low

Tuskegee Institute's compilation lists only one lynching in the United States in 1945. This is a record low. It is one less than in 1944; two less than in 1943; four less than in 1942; and two less than in 1941.

The crime of mob murder has declined steadily since the turn of the century when the toll of victims hovered around 100 and reached in one year 130. The one lynching of 1945 took place in Florida. The victim was a Negro farm hand who was snatched from a county jail by a band who entered it, mysteriously, with a key. It is a blot on Florida law enforcement that no member of the mob has been apprehended and no information discovered as to how the lynchers obtained a key to the jail.

There is cause for gratification in the 1945 record, but none for complacency. A better record is possible for 1946: no lynchings at all. One looks forward to the day when this revolting crime against life and law will be uprooted from the American scene.

## Improving

From Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, comes the annual tabulation of American lynchings. And, by all past standards, the tabulation looks good. There was one person lynched in 1945. This was one person less than the number (2) for the year 1944; two less than the number (3) for the year 1943; four less than the number (5) for the year 1942, and two less than the number (3) for the year 1941.

Dr. Patterson might have added that it was some dozens less than the number of lynchings that disfigured a great many years in decades not so long removed. Obviously we have made progress in restraining the mob instinct in the course of years. No longer can foreign propagandists seek to divert criticism from their own large-scale blood-baths by pointing to lynchings in the United States.

But commendable as the record for 1945 may be, it is not beyond betterment. As long as lynch law claims the life of a single American, white or black, who has been deprived of his constitutional rights and subjected to barbarism, the war against lynching is not finished.

## *The Lynching Record*

According to records compiled by Tuskegee Institute, there was only one lynching in the United States in the year 1945. This was one less than in 1944; two less than in 1943; four less than in 1942, and two less than in 1941.

The person lynched was a Negro farm hand. He was removed from a county jail by a mob which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key. He was taken about seven miles from the town and shot to death.

The one lynching in 1945 occurred in the State of Florida. It does not appear of record that any serious effort has been made by the authorities of that State to apprehend members of the lynching mob, to inquire why the jail was left unguarded, and how a key was obtained.

Tuskegee records are regarded as authoritative, since they do not admit mere brawls in which some one is killed. The crime of lynching not only means the murder of an unarmed and defenseless prisoner, but includes an attack on the law itself, the forcable removal of a prisoner from the custody of the courts or of officers of the law. It has been demonstrated that lynching can be fully stopped in any State where the authorities are resolute in their determination to prosecute known members of such murder gangs, and to remove from office those officers of the law who supinely surrender prisoners entrusted to their keeping.

With the decline of lynching, agitation for a Federal anti-lynching bill, a sort of revival of the Force bill, to give Federal officers jurisdiction in local crimes, has largely disappeared. Its place as a football of American politics and as a bid for the Negro vote in Federal elections in the great cities of the North and Midwest, has largely been taken by the proposal for a Federal Fair Employment Practices Commission. Many friends of the Negro race question whether any real benefit is to be accomplished by any form of Federal interference in local affairs. At the same time, it should be realized that States and localities would relieve themselves of much of this pressure if they took more vigorous means to punish mob violence, and if localities showed more vigor in improvement of the educational, health and economic status of Negro citizens.

Charlotte, N. C., Observer
January 3, 1946

## LYNCHING GOING OUT.

To the great majority of citizens of the South and the Nation one of the most gratifying of the many year-end reports issued is that of Tuskeegee Institute showing that only one lynching took place in the United States in 1945.

It appears that lynching is definitely on the way out. It is a far cry from 1892 when the high peak of 231 lynchings was recorded to 1945 with only one to the discredit of the Nation. The record for the past year is in sharp contrast with that even of 1933—only 12 years ago—when there were 28 lynchings in 11 states.

It is heartening, in contrast with such years as 1892 and even 1933, that for the five years immediately preceding 1945 the number of lynchings fluctuated from two to five, the latter figure being that of 1942 and the lower being that of 1944. Thus in the last two years only three lynchings have occurred.

The record of 1945 would have been perfect, so far as clear cases of lynching are concerned, but for the one instance in Madison county, Florida, which Governor MILLARD CALDWELL refuses to classify as a lynching, saying that the taking of an accused but untried Negro prisoner from an unguarded jail at night by unknown persons who carried him several miles from town and shot him to death "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching".

It would be interesting to learn what precisely Governor CALDWELL would classify as a lynching. It is a reasonable assumption that comparatively few informed people of the Nation or even of the South will agree with him.

It is to his credit, however, that Dr. GUY JOHNSON, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, thinks the Florida Governor "deserves praise" for the fact that he and his attorney general "did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial", even though the grand jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

## AN END TO LYNCHINGS?

The year which just closed came near to being the first on record in which there was not a single lynching in the United States. For only one such crime was reported during 1945 and even that one is not classified as a lynching by the governor of the state in which it occurred.

On the other hand, Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial group working for betterment of racial relations, says there were several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify. When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

Such a case, in the opinion of Gov. Caldwell, of Florida, was that which occurred in his state and which Tuskegee Institute recorded as the only lynching in 1945. However, Dr. Johnson, while agreeing with the Tuskegee classification, said Gov. Caldwell "deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

But whether there were no lynchings or only one last year, there is a definite indication, to quote Dr. Johnson again, that "the old style lynching, with all of it horrors, is definitely on the way out." Records have been kept at Tuskegee since 1900 when there were 115 lynchings, with 130 the following year. Slowly but surely theres figures have declined until since 1940 they have averaged only three a year.

Not without significance is the fact that of the approximately 4,700 lynchings since 1900 nearly 1,300, or about 29 per cent, were of white persons. Also it might be noted that nearly 800 of those lynchings occurred outside the South. But white or Negro, North or South, there is of course no excuse for the invocation of lynch law and every American who has the best interest of all the people of this nation at heart will welcome the indication that this despicable form of punishment seems about to pass permanently from the national scene.—The Birmingham News.

## An Educational Process

Daily Free Press

For many years Tuskegee Institute, noted negro school at Tuskegee, Alabama, has kept records of lynchings throughout the nation.

The release of statistics for 1945 show that there was only one instance in the entire country where a mob took action. That was in Florida when a negro farm hand was taken from a small jail and shot to death. He was suspected and charged with an attempted criminal attack on a small white girl. The governor of Florida has taken issue with the statisticians at Tuskegee, claiming that the killing of the negro did not have the usual aspects of a lynching. Be that as it may, it was an illegal homicide, where citizens took matters into their own hands and did not wait for the orderly processes of the law.

There has been marked progress in the lynching record. In years past there have been a score or more in a year.

Lynching has been a casus belli for critics of the South and some well intended but ill advised reformers have been trying for years to get Congress to enact an anti-lynching bill which would impose a heavy penalty upon a community where such outlawery occurred.

The Free Press has constantly and persistently opposed any such foolish legislation. In the first place, even when mob violence was more prevalent than it is now, the greater majority of citizens of the community where outbreaks occurred were not involved and it would have been manifestly unjust to impose a financial penalty upon the entire population simply to punish those who were responsible. As a matter of fact, the guilty would suffer less than the best citizens, because in most instances members of mobs haven't been large taxpayers or representative citizens.

In the second place, The Free Press has opposed any such legislation on the sound basis that morals cannot be legislated into the hearts of people. The virtual elimination of mob violence in the South and in this country has been due to a process of education and to a growth of sentiment in the hearts of people and an increased respect for the law and confidence in the integrity of our courts.

The Free Press hopes that those who continue to agitate the anti-lynching bill in Congress will give serious consideration to this aspect of the case.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. AGE-HERALD
DEC. 31, 1945

## SINGLE LYNCHING NOTED FOR YEAR

ATLANTA, Dec. 30 —(AP)— lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded so far this year by Tuskegee Institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In 1892, there were 231 lynchings. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

By 1939 there were only three lynchings in two states. In 1940 the figure rose to five, but dropped to four in 1941. In 1942 there were five again, in 1943 three, and in 1944, two.

The lynching recorded this year involved a Negro taken from an unguarded jail and shot to death.

He had been indicted for attempting to rape a 5-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The Grand Jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahassee yesterday, Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

This drew a quick statement from Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial Southern group of Southern editors, churchmen and others working for betterment of racial relations.

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

Dr. Johnson added that the 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The S. R. C. director said, however, that "the old style lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He added:

"I believe that if we use our common sense here in the South we can avoid a repetition of the period of Ku Kluxism and lynching which we had after World War I.

Dr. Johnson named two other pressing problems in the South in the postwar era as "fair play for veterans, white and colored" and a "more impartial administration of the law." The law, he said, should be "color blind."

CHATTANOOGA, TENN. TIMES
DEC. 30, 1945

## ONLY ONE LYNCHING

Tuskegee Institute listed only one lynching in 1945. The Governor of Florida, in which state that lynching occurred, denied that it was in fact a lynching. A Negro indicted for an attempted attack on a five-year-old white girl was taken from an unguarded jail and shot to death.

Dr. Guy Johnson, director of the Southern Regional Conference, said in Atlanta that the Florida case was in fact a lynching, but that the Governor of Florida deserved praise for trying in vain to apprehend the lynchers.

Dr. Johnson added that the old-time lynchings, where sadism and horror carried the mob along to horrible excesses, "is on the way out." Insofar as 1945 is concerned, there were no such lynchings.

In 1932 there were 231 lynchings. In 1942 there were 28. In 1945 there was only one. The chief danger spot for racial blood-letting is not in the South any longer, but in other parts of the country where such things are called "race riots."

The steady economic improvement in the South is largely responsible. Education is another factor. A widespread effort of officers of the law and high officials in the South to stamp out the evil is still another. And in 1945 there was only a single incident to mar a perfect record.

KNOXVILLE, TENN. JOURNAL
DEC. 30, 1945

## One Lynching Recorded In '45 Is Questionable

ATLANTA, Dec. 29 (AP)—A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded so far this year by Tuskegee Institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

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He had been indicted for attempting to rape a five-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The grand jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

In Tallahassee today, Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

FLORENCE, ALA. HERALD
JAN. 4, 1946

## ONE LYNCHING IN 1945

During 1945 only one lynching occurred in the United States, and even this one "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching," according to Governor Millard Caldwell of Florida, in whose state it occurred last October.

In the lone Florida case a Negro charged with assaulting a 5-year-old white girl was quietly taken from an unguarded jail and shot to death. There was no mob, and none of the public excitement such as is usually associated with a lynching.

Dr. Guy B. Johnson of the University of North Carolina, long active in promoting better race relations in the South, agrees with Tuskegee Institute in classifying the occurrence as a lynching, but praises Governor Caldwell and the attorney general of Florida for doing their best to have the killers brought to trial, although they were unsuccessful. Dr. Johnson also said:

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

While even one lynching in a whole year is one too many, the 1945 record again strikingly illustrates how effectively this crime is being stamped out.

* * *

Lynching in the United States reached its frightful peak in 1892, when a total of 231 persons were killed by mobs, of whom 69 were white. From 1882 to 1901 inclusive, more than 100 persons were lynched every year except one (96 in 1890). In 1884, 160 white and 51 colored were killed by mobs; in 1885, 110 whites and 74 colored.

Since records have been kept at Tuskegee, beginning in 1882, a total of 4,710 persons have been lynched in the United States, of whom 1,297 were white and 3,410 were Negroes. The 12 states in which more than 100 lynchings have occurred during this period are:

Mississippi, 572; Georgia, 521; Texas, 489; Louisiana, 390; Alabama, 346; Arkansas, 285; Florida, 285; Tennessee, 249; Kentucky, 205; South Carolina, 159; Oklahoma, 123; Missouri, 122. Lacking but one of reach this unenviable distinction were North Carolina and Virginia, with 99 lynchings each.

During the same period of 6[illegible] years, nine states had less than 10 lynchings each: Minnesota, 9; Michigan, 8; Pennsylvania, 8; Utah, 8; Nevada, 6; Wisconsin, 6; New York, 2; Delaware, 1; New Jersey, 1. In Arizona, Idaho, Nevada and South Dakota, no Negroes were lynched during this period.

Editorial

In contrast with the ghastly record of the latter part of the last century, the total number of lynchings during the last five years was only 15, as follows: 1941, 4; 1942, 5; 1943, 3; 1944, 2; 1945, 1.

Thus the crime of lynching has been reduced almost to the vanishing point, without the enactment of a Federal anti-lynching law, which has been so vociferously advocated by Northern politicians for many years.

It is to the everlasting credit of the present generation that the practice of taking the law into private hands has been virtually abandoned in favor of orderly legal procedure.

Florence, Ala., Herald
January 4, 1946

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Rome, Ga., News-Tribune
January 2, 1946

## Only One Lynching in 1945

There was one lynching in 1945, according to the Tuskegee Institute, which for years has kept careful records of crimes of this nature. This one was in Florida.

The report revealing that only one lynching occurred over a period of twelve months should be a sufficient answer to those fanatical elements who have been trying to put a so-called anti-lynching bill through Congress. Yet they will not be satisfied, one may be sure, their objective not being to prevent lynchings, but to fasten a larger measure of Federal control over law enforcement in the South.

Yet to all sensible persons it must be clear that the South itself is handling the lynching questions in an eminently satisfactory manner, and intervention by the Federal Government is not warranted in the slightest degree.

Forsyth, Ga., Advertiser
January 10, 1946

## America Almost Has No-Lynching Year

A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closed. There was only one lynching recorded so far this year by Tuskegee Institute and the Governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

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The S.E.C. director said, however, that "the old style mob lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He added:

"I believe that if we use our common sense here in the South we can avoid a repetition of the period of Ku Kluxism and lynching which we had after World War I.

"The biggest problem facing the South is the economic problem. If we can get a better balance between agriculture and industry, equalization of freight rates, and full employment at fair wages, we can really have the new South which is so long overdue.

"When there is economic security, people of all classes or races will get along better together."

Dr. Johnson named two other pressing problems in the South in the postwar era as "fair play for veterans, white and colored" and a more impartial administration of the law." The law, he said, should be "color blind."

Dawson, Ga., News
January 3, 1946

## ONLY ONE LYNCHING IN U. S. THE PAST YEAR

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## An End To Lynchings?

The year which just closed came near to being the first on record in which there was not a single lynching in the United States. For only one such crime was reported during 1945 and even that one is not classified as a lynching by the governor of the state in which it occurred.

On the other hand, Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial group working for betterment of racial relations, says there were several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify. When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

Such a case, in the opinion of Gov. Caldwell, of Florida, was that which occurred in his state and which Tuskegee Institute recorded as the only lynching in 1945. However, Dr. Johnson, while agreeing with the Tuskegee classification, said Gov. Caldwell "deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

But whether there were no lynchings or only one last year, there is a definite indication, to quote Dr. Johnson again, that "the old style lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." Records have been kept at Tuskegee since 1900 when there were 115 lynchings, with 130 the following year. Slowly but surely these figures have declined until since 1940 they have averaged only three a year.

Not without significance is the fact that of the approximately 4,700 lynchings since 1900 nearly 1,300, or about 29 per cent, were of white persons. Also it might be noted that nearly 800 of those lynchings occurred outside the South. But white or Negro, North or South, there is of course no excuse for the invocation of lynch law and every American who has the best interests of all the people of this nation at heart will welcome the indication that this despicable form of punishment seems about to pass permanently from the national scene.

## LYNCHINGS BOWING OUT

ONE lynching reported by Tuskeegee Institute last year contrasts with the grim record of other years.

An AP Newsfeatures Pictograph

7279

OCALA, FLA.
STAR-BANNER
Cir. D. 4,280—S. 4,280
DEC 31 1945

## LYNCHLESS AMERICA

The United States almost reached a goal in the year that just closed that seemed unattainable a quarter of a century ago. The Tuskegee Institute reports that there was only one lynching during the last twelve months, and there is some dispute as to whether that is the proper definition to apply to the shooting of a young negro taken from the unguarded Madison county jail.

Records kept by the Tuskegee Institute show that lynchings have been steadily declining in recent years. In 1892 there were 231; in 1933 there were 28. Lowest records in previous years were three in 1939 and two in 1944. Last year there was but one, due to the unfortunate situation at Madison. The sheriff carelessly left the jail unguarded overnight when a young negro charged with attempted rape was brought there from state prison to face trial.

Governor Caldwell raises the question whether the Madison slaying was a lynching, but Tuskekee has so recorded it, and Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, agrees with Tuskegee. So the record will stand.

Most people will agree with Dr. Johnson who said, in commenting, that "if we use our common sense here in the south we can avoid a repetition of the period of Ku Kluxism and lynching which we had after World War I."

There are signs pointing in that direction. The south, as a section, is getting ready to open the election polls to negro voters in democratic primaries. Negroes will vote for the first time next year in Florida and other southern states in democratic primaries.

The south is acutely aware that its biggest problem in solving the race problem is economic, that its negro citizens must be provided with jobs at fair wages and there must be a more evenly balanced administration of the law to give the negro the justice he is entitled to.

In Atlanta an active campaign is under way to provide adequate housing for negroes. The Orlando Rotary club, on discovering that negroes were being overcharged for home building sites, is sponsoring a housing project for negroes that they may be provided with decent homes at reasonable prices.

A lynchless America is not an impossibility, and the south can point with pride to the record already made in striving for that goal. Advocates of the federal anti-lynching bill, who periodically bring the issue before congress, should read the record and give the south credit for preventing lynchings.

## A DISAPPEARING CRIME

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, only one person was lynched in the United States during 1945—a Negro taken from a Florida jail by a mob.

In 1944, according to the same authority, two persons were lynched; in 1943 five; in 1942 and 1941, three each.

Thus lynching has practically disappeared in the United States. Indeed we can think of no other crime committed as seldom.

In the light of these statistics, the continued pressure of Negro organizations and those catering to them in the Congress and in the various State Legislatures for additional and more drastic law against lynching appears entirely without justification.

ROME, GA.
NEWS-TRIBUNE
Cir. D. 7,139 — S. 7,305
JAN 2 - 1946

## *Only One Lynching in 1945*

There was one lynching in 1945, according to the Tuskegee Institute, which for years has kept careful records of crimes of this nature. This one was in Florida.

The report revealing that only one lynching occurred over a period of twelve months should be a sufficient answer to those fanatical elements who have been trying to put a so-called anti-lynching bill through Congress. Yet they will not be satisfied, one may be sure, their objective not being to prevent lynchings, but to fasten a larger measure of Federal control over law enforcement in the South.

Yet to all sensible persons it must be clear that the South itself is handling the lynching questions in an eminently satisfactory manner, and intervention by the Federal Government is not warranted in the slightest degree.

# One Lynching Too Many

Editorial

Tuskegee Institute, which carefully keeps a record of lynchings in the United States, a duty continued across many years, reports that in 1945 there was one lynching in the United States.

In Florida a mob using a key to the jail, took a Negro farm hand out and lynched him. He had been accused of criminal assault.

That is, comparatively, a good record. In 1944 there were two lynchings; in 1943 there were three; in 1942 there were five, and in 1941 there were two.

One lynching, however, is a bad record. The Negro was in jail. He could not escape the processes of law. There was no reason for the mob to take the law out of the hands of the courts, which are the protection of America, and itself commit murder.

One lynching is a shameful blot on a year which saw the world in victorious struggle against a philosophy of violence and defiance of justice and law.

The south has had no real racial troubles, though many have predicted it would and some demagogues have desired for it to have.

Let every thoughtful man and woman make it their duty to try and create such public opinion that violence and lynchings may not occur at all in 1946. It can be done. There is no reason for "trouble" or violence. There are legal ways, peaceful ways, American ways, to settle problems and to deal with crime.

Let us do it that way.

## NEW LOW LYNCHING RECORD

There was one lynching in the year 1945 as Tuskegee Institute informs in its regular year-end release on the subject; and the record marks a new low record in lynchings in this country for a number of years.

The victim was a negro farm hand in Florida, accused of assault with attempt to rape. Tuskegee's records show that there were two lynchings in 1944, three in 1943, five in 1942, and three in 1941.

While admittedly just one lynching is one too many, the record makes it clearer than ever that there is no shadow of excuse for continued attempts of certain elements in Congress to pass a federal anti-lynching law under which the crime would be punishable under federal statutes, contrary to the American practice with respect to most other common law crimes.

Editorial

Yet we dare say that this being election year Congressional time is likely to be taken up with more attempts by representatives of eastern districts to enact such a law—or at least to get credit with the voters of their districts for trying to enact it. If so, Tuskegee's own records ought to prove a common-sense barrier to any killing of Congressional time on the subject.

## South Solves Own Problem

Editorial

One of the [illegible] injustices the South is forced to undergo, is the propaganda that Negroes in this section live in a state not far removed from the slavery from which they were emancipated 82 years ago. A while back an author of a more or less popular book, which we refuse to advertise, wrote that the Negroes in the South lived in a state of misery worse than any people in the starving regions of India, China and other poverty-stricken countries. Then last year a writer in the Philadelphia Inquirer wrote a series of articles based on "personal observation" extending, no doubt as far as Havre de Grace, Md., that the South needs to be made fit for human habitation.

Of course these dreams by people who are eager for something to whine and rave about are just "hooey." We have not heard of a Negro starving to death for many years. Conditions are far from what they should be and there is much injustice against the black man which is steadily being ironed out by the South itself.

Saturday, the Tuskegee Institute made its annual report on lynchings in the South. There was only one lynching last year, a Negro in Florida who was accused of a heinous but unproven crime. In 1939 there were three lynchings, 1940 there were five; 1941, four; five in 1942; three in 1943 and two in 1944. There has been fewer Negros lynched in the South during the last six years than were killed during one race riot in Detroit.

The South has cured this great evil without outside help. It is a far cry from the 231 lynchings of 1892 to the one lynching in 1945. It is high time for northern cities to quit berating the South and to attend to their own weaknesses.

## One Lynching In 1945

For a good many years the Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research, has reported annually on the number of lynchings taking place in the country. The institute's report records but one incident of that character in 1945 and pointed out that there were only 2 such cases the year previous. There were 3 in 1943 and 5 in 1942.

Editorial

The Tuskegee Institute is Booker T. Washington's great school for the Negroes and throughout the years has maintained the standards erected by its founder. Its annual reports of the cases of lawlessness involving lynching have undoubtedly served to place emphasis on the stigma such crimes bring to the communities in which they occur.

Officers of the law who in this day and time allow such things to happen within the province of their authority are on the defensive.

# Lynching Record Declines; Only 2 Cases In 1944

Philadelphia Tribune pg 1 1-6-45

Two persons were lynched in the year 1944 according to the statistics compiled by the Tuskegee Institute Department of Research and Records. This number is one less than that of 1943.

Both of the lynchings were colored, being a 65-year-old minister-farmer, who was taken from home and shot; and the other a 17-year-old reformatory trusty, who killed the wife and daughter of the superintendent.

The former lynching occurred in Mississippi and the latter in Tennessee.

# LYNCHINGS FOR 1944

Pittsburgh Courier pg 2 1-6-45

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—There were two lynchings in the United States last year, according to Tuskegee's Department of Records and Research. In making the annual report, Dr. F. D. Patterson president of Tuskegee Institute said the lynch victims were a Mississippi minister and a Tennessee youth.

The Rev. Isaac Simmons, 65-year-old minister-farmer, met his death last March at the hands of a mob when he hired a lawyer to safeguard his title to a debt free farm. James T. Scott, 17-year-old trusty at a State Training and Agriculture reformatory near Pikeville, Tenn., was lynched last November, after he had been accused of killing the wife and daughter of the superintendent of the school.

Both lynch victims were Negroes. Nineteen persons were lynched in this country in the last five years—five in 1940, four in 1941, five in 1942, three in 1943, and two in 1944.

# Single Lynching Case Reported By Institute In Year Now Ending

Birmingham News pg 1 12-31-45

ATLANTA, Dec. 31 — (AP) — A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded so far this year by Tuskegee Institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching. 12-31-45

# An End To Lynchings?

Atlanta Daily World pg 1 1-1-46

The year which just closed came near to being the first on record in which there was not a single lynching in the United States. For only one such crime was reported during 1945 and even that one is not classified as a lynching by the governor of the state in which it occurred.

On the other hand, Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial group working for betterment of racial relations, says there were several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify. When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

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But whether there were no lynchings or only one last year, there is definite indication, to quote Dr. Johnson again, that "the old style lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." Records have been kept at Tuskegee since 1900 when there were 115 lynchings, with 130 the following year. Slowly but surely these figures have declined until since 1940 they have averaged only three a year.

Not without significance is the fact that of the approximately 4,700 lynchings since 1900 nearly 1,300, or about 29 per cent, were of white persons. Also it might be noted that nearly 800 of those lynchings occurred outside the South. But white or Negro, North or South, there is of course no excuse for the invocation of lynch law and every American who has the best interests of all the people of this nation at heart will welcome the indication that this despicable form of punishment seems about to pass permanently from the national scene.

Lynchings have been steadily declining. In 1892, there were 231 lynchings. That was an all-time high. In 1933 there were 28 in 11 states.

By 1939 there were only three lynchings in two states. In 1940 the figure rose to five, but dropped to four in 1941. In 1942 there were five again, in 1943 three, and in 1944, two.

The lynching recorded this year involved a Negro taken from an unguarded jail and shot to death.

He had been indicted for attempting to rape a 5-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found. The Grand Jury said it was unable to fix responsibility.

* * *

IN TALLAHASSEE TODAY, Gov. Millard Caldwell, replying to a query from the Encyclopedia Britannica, stated the October slaying "did not come within any recognized definition of lynching."

This drew a quick statement from Dr. Guy Johnson, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial Southern group of Southern editors, churchmen and others working for betterment of racial relations.

"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

Dr. Johnson added that the 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The S. R. C. director said, however, that "the old style mob lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He added:

"I believe that if we use our common sense here in the South we can avoid a repetition of the period of Ku Kluxism and lynching which we had after World War I.

Dr. Johnson named two other pressing problems in the South in the postwar era as "fair play for veterans, white and colored" and a "more impartial administration of the law." The law, he said, should be "color blind."

# Lynchless America Almost Becomes Reality In 1945

Montgomery Advertiser pg 1 1-1-46

ATLANTA, Dec. 29.—(AP)—A lynchless America almost became a reality in the year just closing. There was only one lynching recorded by Tuskegee Institute and the governor of Florida questioned whether it was a lynching.

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"I believe that if we use our common sense here in the South we can avoid a repetition of the period of Ku Kluxism and lynching which we had after World War I.

"The biggest problem facing the South is the economic problem. If we can get a better balance between agriculture and industry, equalization of freight rates, and full employment at fair wages, we can really have the new South which is so long overdue.

"When there is economic security, people of all classes or races will get along better together." Montgomery Ad 1-8

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Gov. Caldwell said it was his personal opinion the killing of the negro at Madison did not come within the definition of lynching, and amplified:

"The ordeal of bringing a young and innocent victim of rape into open court and subjecting her to detailed cross examination by defense counsel could easily be as great an injury as the original crime.

"This fact probably accounts for a number of killings or lynchings which might otherwise be avoided. Society has not found a solution to this problem."

[redacted]

## *Decrease In Lynchings*

It is only by a broad interpretation of the word lynching that the United States was kept in 1945 from a perfect record in regard to that crime. The one single crime charged up as a lynching by Tuskegee Institute, in its annual compilation of lynching figures, is subject to possible doubt.

Certainly the year just past had no lynchings of a sort that formerly disgraced the nation, when mobs gathered, seized some victim upon whom to wreak their collective hate, and publicly burned or hanged him. That sort of thing probably has gone forever from this country. Public condemnation of it is too strong now.

There is still, however, need for protection against crimes like the one committed during the year in Florida when a small group of men seized a Negro prisoner in an unguarded jail and shot him. There was no mob scene, no public spectacle. The governor of Florida, jealous of the reputation of his state, thinks the deed should not have been called a lynching. That is a matter of opinion and, perhaps, of technical definition.

The fact, however, that concern can be shown over the application of the term lynching to this event shows that the nation has come far in public disapproval of lynching. There is little public effort now to condone such deeds. The stigma of a crime rests certainly upon them and upon all who participate in them.

Let it be emphasized once more, too, that the lynching problem seems in process of solution without federal legislation. It is difficult to see the need of congressional action against a crime of which there was only one example classified as a lynching. In a year and that one not certainly

# Tell It To Old Grandma

**Please try to confine your letters to 300 words.**

GIVEN A CHANCE

Editor, The Advertiser:

As a native Montgomerian, I should like to commend you for your recent editorial (Dec. 30), "A New Type of Lynching." This editorial and the earlier one regarding the unfortunate attack upon a helpless Negro by two white men stand as testimonial evidence of the will of The Advertiser to see justice prevail.

Lynching is indeed broader and more vicious than mere mortality. Inequality before the law, inferior schools, differentiated economic opportunities, inadequate housing and health facilities and the myriad traditionalisms which create psychological complexes — as documented in the American Youth Commission series — are all social immoralities which lead only to human degeneracy and distrust.

The rational South, having largely obliterated hemp lynchings, should now attack with persistent fervor these more subtle forms of lynching.

Given a fair chance, democracy (the word being used in its fullest meaning) will solve its own problems.

H. H. HAMILTON.

# One Mob Murder

DURING MORE than 50 years, in which it has kept a record of lynch-murders for the entire country, Tuskegee Institute now comes closest to reporting a clean slate for an entire calendar year:

Only one lynching occurred in 1945. That showing is compared with two such outrages in 1944 and three in 1943. Apparently, the record is steadily improving. By that token, there should be no lynchings in 1946.

Before this, however, the Nation has approached the goal which all decent citizens desire—only to be shamed by a relapse into "the law of the jungle." Too easily, the backwash of the war may bring a wave of mob murders, such as followed World War I. To be sure, so long as the Ku Klux Klan shall not rear its ugly form, there is hope.

The only lynching victim in 1945 (the Tuskegee record shows) was a Negro farm hand charged with attempted rape upon a white woman. The mob entered a county jail (in Florida), which was unguarded, with a key, took the victim to a country road and shot him to death.

In all likelihood, a show of resistance by the sheriff would have checked the mob and kept the slate clean for 1945.

Significantly, over Tuskegee's 50-odd years, Florida—next to Mississippi—has the second-worst lynch-murder record; but Texas is in no position to throw stones.

# Lynchings in Sharp Decline, Tuskegee Report Indicates

By HENRY LESESNE

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"I must agree with Tuskegee in calling the case a lynching," he said, "but I think the governor of Florida deserves praise for what he did in that case. He and his attorney-general did their best to have the killers discovered and brought to trial."

**Borderline Cases**

Dr. Johnson added that the 1945 record is not as good as it looks because there have been several cases of a "borderline nature which are difficult to classify."

"When the killing of a person accused of crime is done quietly by two or three persons rather than by a mob, it is indeed hard to draw the line between lynching and homicide."

The SRC director said, however, that "the old style mob lynching, with all its horrors, is definitely on the way out." He added:

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Let us do it that way.

7281

## Tuskegee Prexy Answers Critic

NEW ORLEANS.—In a letter to the editor of the Times-Picayune daily newspaper, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, made reply this week to the criticism offered by a Mrs. Charles Burwell in reference to the 1944 lynching report, prepared by Tuskegee in December, 1944.

Wrote Dr. Patterson:

"In a recent issue of your publication, there appeared a letter from Mrs. Charles Burwell referring to the lynching of an Italian by Negro soldiers.

"I asked our research department to investigate this reported lynching. I quote the following paragraph from a statement received from the acting director of the department of records and research:

"'The press reported that the trial of these rioting soldiers brought out the fact that this Italian prisoner committed suicide.'"

During the first week of 1945 a report was made by Tuskegee Institute to the effect that there had been two lynchings in 1944, one in Mississippi and the other in Tennessee. Reverend Isaac Simmons was the victim of the Mississippi mob; James Scales was hanged by a Tennessee mob.

After this account was published in the daily newspapers, a letter to the editor, signed by Mrs. Charles Burwell, stated there had been three lynchings and noted that the alleged lynching of Private Guglielmo Olivotto, an Italian prisoner of war, had not been recorded. The alleged lynchers, the letter stated, were Negro soldiers.

President Patterson's letter which appeared in Sunday's Times-Picayune was in answer to the criticism.

## Only One Lynching Recorded This Year

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Lynchings have been declining steadily. In the year 1892 there were 231 lynchings. That was an all-time high. In 1918 there were 28 in 11 states. In 1944 there were two.

The lynching recorded this year involved a Negro taken from an unguarded jail and shot to death. He had been indicted for attempting to rape a 5-year-old white girl. No witnesses to the shooting were found.

## Two Lynchings Too Many

Annual reports from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Tuskegee Institute agree that there were only two authenticated lynchings in the United States in 1944, thus indicating a marked decline in American mob murder.

This decline has been a progressive one through the years and the figures for 1944 are in comforting contrast to the horrible totals during the last World War when American zeal to make the world safe for democracy did not deter mobs intent on "keeping the Negro in his place."

However, even two lynchings are too many, and the fight against this evil should be continued unrelentingly until there are no lynchings at all.

Indications are that this time will not be far off.

America is becoming more mature, more civilized, more law-abiding.

There are still many diehards intent on maintaining the racial status quo but it is undeniable that tolerance and understanding have grown tremendously during the war years and will continue afterward, even though there may be lamentable lapses from time to time.

If other communities will follow the example of Boston, Mass., and instruct police officers in minority problems and race relations, it is quite possible that the post war period will be one of greater interracial peace and justice.

At least that is a goal toward which the responsible people of the United States should aim.

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## Disagrees With Tuskegee Report

# 'Lynchings At Vanishing Point,' Says Dixie Solon; Lauds South

WASHINGTON—(NNPA)—"Every member of Congress and every constituent will rejoice in the announcement that in the year of 1944 there was only one lynching in the United States," declared Rep. Sam Hobbs (D) of Alabama on the floor of the House last week. "It must be borne in mind," he said, "that this reduction, the most rapid in the history of any crime, has been accomplished in the only possible way, by intelligent and local creation, maintenance, and application of local public sentiment."

The Alabama Congressman disagreed with the findings of Tuskegee Institute that there were two lynchings. One was a lynching, he stated, and the other was not.

**EXPLAINS TWO KILLINGS**

Justifying his position, he said: "At Pikesville, Tenn., a 17-year-old trusty at the Tennessee State Training and Agricultural school, a reformatory, murdered the wife and daughter of the superintendent of the reformatory after attempting to rape the daughter who was the wife of a lieutenant in the United States Army Corps. There was no question of his identity or guilt. He was taken from the jail and shot to death by a mob.

"The other case grew out of a dispute as to the ownership of a farm. Six men, three of whom had a tax title, went to the farm and ejected the man in possession, claiming title otherwise, and his son. During the argument that ensued, they shot and killed the father. All six were indicted by the grand jury of Amite county, Miss., for murder. One of them has already been tried; the others await trial."

**OPENING GUN AGAINST BILL**

He continued by saying that "While, of course, the crime of lynching, even in one case, should not be approved or condoned, no matter how great the provocation, yet we are glad to know that lynching has been reduced practically to the vanishing point."

The speech was regarded here as the South's opening gun against enactment of a Federal anti-lynch law.

The fact, however, that concern can be shown over the application of the term lynching to the event shows that the nation has come far in public disapproval of lynching. There is little public effort now to condone such deeds. The stigma of a crime rests certainly upon them and upon all who participate in them.

Let it be emphasized once more, too, that the lynching problem seems in process of solution without federal legislation. It is difficult to see the need of congressional action against a crime of which there was only one example in a year and that one not certainly classified as a lynching.

## A NEW TYPE OF LYNCHING

The Montgomery Advertiser

A new definition of "lynching" is needed.

"Illegal initimidation and abuse of those who lack position and prestige on account of race or economic condition" is the proper way to express the new interpretation of "lynching" that is needed.

The annual summary of lynchings kept by Tuskegee Institute has just come to The Advertiser. President F. D. Patterson has this to say: Montgomery, Ala.

"I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there was one person lynched in 1945.

"This is one person less than the number two for the year 1944; two less than the number three for the year 1945; four less than the number five for the year 1942; and two less than the number three for the year 1941. 12-30-45

"The person lynched was a Negro farm hand. He was removed from the county jail by a mob, which is said to have entered the unguarded jail with a key. He was then taken about seven miles from town and shot to death.

"The charge was assault with attempt to rape, and the state in which the lynching occurred was Florida."

That is, in some ways, an admirable record. Lynchings have declined at the rate of one a year for the past four years. If the trend continues as it should, there will be no lynchings (according to the old definition) next year.

For more than the four years cited in the above letter lynchings in the old sense have been practically negligible. This is not a cold-blooded comment disregarding the rights of those who have been lynched. In the individual sense no such despicable assault upon the rights of man can be considered negligible, but in the long-view of Southern development, this small number can be considered negligible.

However not reflected in the "lynching" tabulation are the innumerable vicious attacks upon those who cannot retaliate physically or through the courts. The fact that such attacks do not result in death does in no wise change the fact that a certain sort of "lynch" law protects the attacker. 12-30-45

Recently The Advertiser related second hand (from an unimpeachable eye-witness) such a lynching. The victim never came forward to identify himself. A few white people took the trouble to say that The Advertiser was to be commended for its effort. One colored person took the trouble to write and say about the same thing.

The net result was near zero.

The victim of that assault is, as far as we know, still licking his wounds in silence.

The perpetrators of that "lynching" are still free and unpunished.

The decent folks of the South, white and black, have a problem on their hands. Extremists from both societies are out to cause trouble. Lynchings in the ordinary sense are just about a thing of the past, but that is not the final answer to the matter of living together in harmony.

The Advertiser does not pretend to know all the answers. It is a fact that prior to World War II a rather solid relationship was taking shape in accordance with a mutually satisfactory pattern.

The war has really changed few things in basic human relationships in this community. However, there is a new temper that can be sensed.

Even the most level-headed of the Negro leaders are not immune to the hectic compulsion. Recently The Advertiser received a note from one of its Negro friends that had a tone of bitterness totally out of character with previous relationships.

The Advertiser has further noted white men who are careless and un-understanding in their view of the Negro position. The men observed never before were of that character. 12-30-45

The trouble seems to be that the extremists on both sides hold sway.

It is time that reasonable and decent men, black and white, got together and charted a course satisfactory to both.

[redacted]

## A Single Lynching

According to the Tuskegee Institute which checks on such crimes, only one lynching occurred in the entire United States during 1945.

While that one, which is charged to the state of Florida, was too many, it does demonstrate that progress is being made toward the elimination of lynching. The gains scored in recent years have not been lost.

Law enforcement is infinitely more conscious of its responsibilities toward prisoners, and more and more is the theory and practice of summary justice becoming repugnant to the public mind.

The fact that more lynchings did not occur last year is probably due to courageous individual peace officers in many places putting their own lives in jeopardy to protect the lives of prisoners.

The mob has never been organized which could take a prisoner from a peace officer of courage, resourcefulness and intelligence if that officer did not want to give him up That type of officer predominates.

Some day the country may come through with a clean record on lynching. Law enforcement's own progress shows that it is possible.

SAVANNAH, GA.
NEWS
Circ. D. 40,666 - S. 42,018
JAN 3- 1946

## One Lynching in 1945

According to the annual announcement of the Tuskegee Institute the South was marked by but one lynching in 1945, and that was in Florida, a reminder that this section of the country can no longer be identified with such types of murder in a big way.

In 1892, the institute points out, there were 231, an all-time high record. In 1933 there were 28 in eleven states, and in 1944 there were only two!

The South thus would appear to have virtually removed this blot from its escutcheon, which should be the case, and it is to be hoped that in the future there will be no case of lynching. Editorial

Thoughtful Americans meanwhile will also hope that our Northern urban centers will, with equal success, get rid of the mass gangster killings and epidemics of homicides which have broken out within their borders—a hope which we confess is prompted by the remembrance that while failing to keep their own houses in order they have, with holier-than-thou attitudes, seen fit to try to make it appear that the South is the most lawless section in the nation.

MACON, GA.
NEWS
Circ. D. 13,592
JAN 4- 1946

By Jim Griffith

## THE LAST STRAW

Editorial

This is going to hurt the boys who weave ropes for a living, but lynchings are on the way out.

Except for cowboy movies, there was only one lynching reported in America during 1945 and according to the Tuskegee Institute, there are absolutely no strings attached to this record.

The governor of Florida has even questioned whether the one recorded lynching was a real lynching but since the alleged victim is laid up indefinitely with a terrific crick in his neck, the world will probably never get the hang of exactly what happened.

Lynchings have been steadily declining since 1892. In that year there were 231 episodes where the noose cooked somebody's goose and bodies swung over peaceful little communities more often than pendulums on town clocks.

This was an all-time record hanging season. Some of the Western towns were advertising special Saturday afternoon bargain offers of "Two Lynchings for the Price of One." But oddly enough, few people wanted to get roped in on that kind of deal.

Heavily-laden apple trees went absolutely unnoticed because you could find twice as many Adam's apples hanging from the nearest oak tree. But all of this is over now. Directors of the recent survey say that the old style mob lynching, with all of its horrors, is definitely on the way out—and not feet or head first, mind you.

There will be many like me who will be overjoyed at this news. If there's anything I think I could hate worse than a tight size 15 shirt collar, it would be a hanging, and especially mine.

Nevertheless, I won't hesitate to say that I'm a little worried about the recurrence of terrible crime waves. Wait until Jesse James hears about this.

NO. 47p | NAME LYNCHINGS, Reports on, Editorial Comments on

1945

JAN. 2, 1946
BUTTE MONT POST 216

## Lynching Record Best In 45 Years

One of the encouraging year-end reports reaching the Post editorial desk is that of the Tuskegee Institute showing that there was only one lynching in the United States in 1945. It was the best record that has been made in the 45 years that the noted Negro institution has been compiling statistics on lynchings.

In 1900, the first year of the Tuskegee records, 115 persons were victims of lynch law and the high point of the period was reached the next year with 130 such crimes. For many years the annual mob toll ran into the scores, but in the last decade the number has been greatly reduced. In 1936 there were nine lynchings and in 1942 there were five. In 1944 there were two.

Various factors have contributed to the improvement. The principal one is the determined effort by organizations and individuals, supported by practically the whole Southern press, to awaken public consciousness to the gravity of permitting mob action. It is reflected in fewer attempts by persons to take the law into their hands and a greater disposition by authorities to frustrate such attempts.

Proposals to enact a federal anti-lynching law have precipitated some of the bitterest congressional fights of recent years. It would seem that they could well be dropped now, and so remove one fertile source of factional differences. The public is solving the problem.

## Downward Trend in Lynchings Holds

(Christian Century)

There was only one lynching in the United States during 1945. That occurred in Florida when a Negro accused of an attempted attack on a five-year-old child was taken from an unguarded jail and shot to death.

The nation's lynching record has been going down steadily for some years. In 1942 Tuskegee Institute reported five lynchings; in 1943 three; in 1944 two. Now the number is down to one.

The one lynching which marred the closing year of World War II is a good many less than the 64 in 1918.

Those who have struggled with such courage to extirpate this terrible form of lawlessness will gird for new battles this year. The mob spirit always rises to its most dangerous manifestations immediately after the end of a war. A generation ago, the lynching record went up from 64 in 1918 to 83 in 1919. Nothing like that must be allowed to happen this year.

## What's A Lynching?

Our able governor has acquired a convenient, if not statesmanlike, habit. When something arises he cannot easily explain, he simply denies that it exists.

When The Tribune staff writer personally inspected the sweat boxes and we printed descriptions and photographs of the objectionable ones, the governor said: "There are no sweat boxes in Florida."

When it was disclosed that the only lynching in the United States in 1945 occurred in Madison County, Fla., wherein a group of men obtained unobstructed entrance to the county jail and removed and shot to death a prisoner, the governor says that wasn't a lynching.

We have all along been under the impression that a lynching is the execution of a prisoner without due process of law. Maybe that's all wrong.

Perhaps the governor draws a distinction between a mob making a forcible entry into a jail and one which, provided with the keys just walks in and helps itself, without interference or resistance by the authorities.—Tampa Tribune.

JAN. 1, 1946
WICHITA FALLS TEX TIMES 214

## 1945'S ONE LYNCHING

There was only one lynching in the United States in 1945, according to Tuskegee Institute, which undertakes to keep a record of such matters. The victim was a Florida negro, accused of assault to rape, who was removed from an unguarded jail and shot to death.

The 1945 record compares with 2 in 1944, 3 in 1943, and 5 in 1942. Also, with 9 in 1935, 17 in 1925, 76 in 1915, 62 in 1905, 179 in 1895, and 184 in 1885. Sixty years ago, there was a lynching every other day, on the average.

According to one sociologist, who wrote a book a few years ago expounding his theory, there is a close relationship between the price of cotton and the number of instances of mob violence. When the price of cotton is abnormally low there are more lynchings. When the price is high, lynchings are few. Statistics support the theory fairly well.

In 1945, when cotton was worth about $100 a bale, there was only one lynching.

7282

# Hobbs Of Alabama Praises South For 'One' Lynching

Memphis World — Tenn.

## Seen As Opening Gun To Halt Drive For Federal Mob Bill

1-12-45

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA) — Every member of Congress and every constituent will rejoice in the announcement that in the year 1944 there was only one lynching in the United States, declared Rep. Sam Hobbs (D) of Alabama on the floor of the House this week.

"It must be born in mind," he said, "that this reduction, the most rapid in the history of any crime, has been accomplished in the only possible way, by intelligent and local creation, maintenance, and application of local public sentiment."

The Alabama Congressman disagreed with the findings of Tuskegee Institute that there were two lynchings. One was a lynching, he states, and the other was not.

1-12-45

Justifying his position, he said: "At Pikeville Tenn., a 17-year-old trusty at the Tennessee State Training and Agricultural School, a reformatory, murdered the wife and daughter of the superintendent of the reformatory after attempting to rape the daughter, who was the wife of a lieutenant in the United States Army Corps. There was no question of his identity or guilt. He was taken from the jail and shot to death by a mob.

"The other case grew out of a dispute as to the ownership of a farm. Six men, three of whom had a tax title, went to the farm and ejected the man in possession, claiming title otherwise, and his son. During the argument that ensued, they shot and killed the father. All six were indicted by the grand jury of Amite County, Miss., for murder. One of them has already been tried; the others await trial."

1-12-45

He continued by saying that "while, of course, the crime of lynching even in one case, should not be approved or condoned, no matter how great the provocation, yet it is well to know that lynching has been reduced practically to the vanishing point."

The speech was regarded here as the South's opening gun against enactment of a federal anti-lynch law.

## TEN LYNCHED IN FRANCE

New York Times

Other Inmates of Collaborationist Camp Jailed for Safety

2-8-45 N.Y. N.Y.

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PARIS, Feb. 7—More than 200 persons held in an internment camp at Gap in the Hautes Alpes Department on charges of collaborating with the enemy were removed to various prisons today following the kidnapping of twelve persons from the camp Sunday and the lynching of at least ten of them.

Twenty men in automobiles disarmed guards at the camp, cut telephone wires and removed the twelve inmates. Monday morning the bullet-ridden bodies of the ten were found near the River Durance outside Gap. The fate of the other two is not known.

## DAILY BACKS LYNCHING AS CRIME PREVENTIVE"

Baltimore Sun

1-23-45

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.—While three men, one a soldier, are held here of slaying a white grocer, a white daily published a letter last week urging lynching as a "crime preventive."

## FRENCH LYNCH CHIEF OF DIJON FOR CRIMES

2-17-45

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PARIS, Feb. 16—In Dijon yesterday afternoon, former Police Chief Jacques Larsac was lynched by a large mob that for several hours dominated the city while the body was displayed on the rails enclosing the City Hall. Dusk fell before the crowds dispersed.

News of the lynching reached Paris only today, simultaneously with the publication of a reminder that the courts of justice trying collaborators with Germany are expected to clear their dockets by April 13.

N.Y. N.Y.

The last lynching was reported on Feb. 7 when twelve men were removed from a detention camp near the town of Gap in the Hautes-Alpes and shot by the roadside.

2-17-45

M. Larsac was charged with the ruthless treatment of patriots during the German occupation but a Dijon court of justice decided that he should be tried only after the end of hostilities. When this decision became known a protest meeting was called by the resistance movement.

It was attended by a great throng. The crowd marched to the jail, broke down the gates and seized M. Larsac in his cell. He was taken to the outskirts of the city and there hanged from a signpost. Then his body was dragged back with ropes to the City Hall.

# Lynching Article Stirs Arkansans

Memphis World — Tenn.

1-23-45

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. — (ANP) — Indignation among Negro citizens flared here last week after publication of a pro-lynching letter in the Arkansas Democrat, a white daily. The letter was written by Bob Ragsdale in which he contributed $5 toward a reward for effective police work and advocated lynching as a crime preventive.

Following on the heels of Ragsdale's letter, Negro citizens formed a committee to call upon the white paper and arrange a public mass meeting. The moves were designed to forestall a repetition of the 1927 lynching in front of Bethel AME church.

1-23-45

A prominent Negro citizen recalled that he saw the lynchers break into Bethel and carry several pews into the street to be used as kindling to start the fire that burned the Negro to crisp.

A letter signed by the Rev. G. Wayman Blakely, AME presiding elder, W. A. Singfield, and J. A. Booker, lawyers, was published in the "Run of the News" column on law enforcement.

No trial has been given the three Negroes charged with the murder of Sam Springfield, local white grocer. The accused are Douglas and Edward Richie, brothers, and Pvt. Alfred James, a Camp Robinson soldier.

## Mob of 100 Lynches Man Over In France

Amsterdam News

N.Y. N.Y. 1-20-45

PARIS—For the second time in as many months, lynch mob "justice" has been meted out to persons accused of crime. The latest reports on that type of lawlessness came from Rodez, in southern France, and the authorities apparently are not going to do much about it.

According to underground sources, three persons were lynched by 100 armed men Tuesday night of last week. Prior to that instance, lynchings have been reported in Maubeuge, Poitiers, Bourgas and Nice.

In the latest cases, the victims were charged with having belonged to the old Vichy militia, which is just about as "serious" as a Negro's insistence on becoming a member of the State Militia in Mississippi.

In every instance, the lynchers claim to belong to the resistance movement, but officials of the National Council of Resistance, have expressed regret that such lawlessness could happen in a country already plagued by mass murder.

At Rodez, eye witnesses reported that members of the mob stormed the jail, disconnected telephones and compelled the warden to open the cells. Then the prisoners were led to the courtyard and shot, using the same "technique as Tennessee lynchers here several months ago in the reported mob murder of a Negro boy.

## RAPE STORY DISPUTE GROWS IN STUTTGART

New York Times

STUTTGART, Germany, Aug. 10 (AP)—With the Americans in control, everything is outwardly quiet in this once famous industrial city, but a welter of rumors arising out of German charges that more than 1,000 women were raped during the first few days of French occupation in April still is growing.

Since the Americans took over the city, July 13, not a single authenticated rape case has been reported. Armulf Klett, burgomaster, said he had heard of one case, but that he did not believe the girl's story.

8-11-45

Stories on just what did occur during the first two or three days of the French occupation conflict. One American officer who was here at the time termed the behavior of Moroccan troops a "disgrace;" another American challenged the German version as an "exaggeration."

N.Y. N.Y.

In view of the row over the situation—especially since the assertion of Senator James O. Eastland, Democrat, of Mississippi, in Congress that 5,000 Stuttgart women and girls were held in a subway and raped—United States Army men here are reluctant to comment officially.

There is no subway in Stuttgart, but there is a huge tunnel, known as the Wagenburg.

The German police chief, Karl Weber, said most of the women were attacked in their homes by turbaned Moroccan troops who broke down the doors in looting forays.

The official German report lists 1,198 rape cases—women whose ages ranged from 14 to 74. Weber said each case had been verified.

Four women were killed and four others committed suicide after being raped, the report said. In one other case, it said, a husband killed his wife who had been attacked, and then committed suicide.

# Rape Story Thin, White Woman Gets Jail Term

Philadelphia Tribune 2-24-45
Philadelphia, Pa.

It was a case of the biter getting bitten at Magistrate James W. McBride's court, Tuesday morning when Agnes Miller, 40, white, of 719 Green street, not only failed to make a rape charge stick, but wound up with a year's sentence in the House of Correction.

According to the testimony Robert Rush, 20, of 742 Emily street was approached by the Miller woman on Saturday night when he, after making a stop at the corner tap-room, was on his way home. After listening to her proposition, he paid her $4.00 and they proceeded to get under a trailer truck which was parked at 10th and Nectarine streets.

Passersbys noticed them and the police at the Tenth and Buttonwood station were summoned to the scene. When Aggie, being in a better position to see, noticed the red car coming she immediately put up a cry of "rape." Robert was hustled, unceremoniously, to the hoosegow.

2-24-45

At the preliminary hearing Sunday morning Magistrate McBride was not satisfied with the story that Agnes told and called for a further investigation with the result mentioned above.

Rush, a native of Florida, who has been here for about seven years, was released with a warning to be more careful about his choice of company.

# 3 English Lynchers of Tan Yank Freed

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

LONDON (NNPA)—Three villagers of Bretforton were acquitted last Friday by a jury at the Worcester assizes after forty minutes' deliberation on a charge of manslaughter in connection with the death of Pvt. Walter J. Shaw, a colored American soldier.

The defendants, Leslie and Dennis Tompkins and Royston Hay, were alleged to have led a posse of villagers who chased Shaw across the fields with pointed stakes, shovels and poles and beat him to death after he allegedly stabbed, Prince Tompkins a brother of two of the defendants, at the bar of a 400-year-old inn in the remote, backwater village of Bretforton.

**First English Lynching**

This was the first recorded instance of a lynching in England. The trouble apparently was the consequence of race discrimination assertedly imported to Britain by white American soldiers.

The altercation between Shaw and Prince Tompkins allegedly occurred after Shaw had been refused a drink at the bar of the inn.

10-27-45

Colored troops are quartered in a camp which the United States Army built within two miles of Bretforton. The villagers were said never to have seen a colored man until colored American troops were moved into the area.

The defendants in the case pleaded self-defense. Prosecutor Cartwright Sharp said, "there was no doubt the man thoroughly deserved punishment, but in this country we cannot permit private revenge, mob law or lynch law."

## — Latin American Labor Notes —

# Puerto Ricans Fear U.S. Lynchers

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. 9-15-45

by Juan Antonio Corretjer

The Puerto Rican daily newspaper, El Imparcial, has disclosed the tragic fate of some 200 Puerto Rican laborers who came to help America during the war. The laborers were transferred from Puerto Rico in a cattle boat to a harbor in the Gulf coast, and from there herded into the copper mines of Utah. Quoting written testimony the Puerto Rican newspapers exposed several murders and atrocious living conditions and treatment.

9-17-45

Here is a typical story:

"On V-J Day," writes laborer Rafael Acevedo, whose family lives at 241 Loiza St., Santurce, "our American companions in the mine were drunk. So was the sheriff. As we are isolated in small groups, we Puerto Ricans were objects for their joy: they celebrated their victory in the war by beating us mercilesly.

"They knoked down one of our boys, whom we call El Cano, and when he ran away he was pursued by a mob, among whom was the sheriff himself. At the outskirts of the town, being so drunk they could not get hold of him, they shot him. We have not been able to learn what became of his body.

"Another Puerto Rican was hit with a blackjack and then thrown into the town jail. When he protested, next day, he was given a mock trial and fined $25. He had to pay the fine and was not even given a receipt.

"We want to be sent to Puerto Rico immediately before we are murdered." Acevedo concludes.

# Rape In Chicago

The Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery, Alabama 9-21-45

The whole community is shocked by the number of women who have recently been raped in Chicago and the suburbs.

It is shocked again by the failure to catch and punish the guilty men.

This is a crime that cannot be tolerated. There are no excuses for failure to enforce the stern laws against it. The public will accept no alibis from police forces, mayors, prosecutors, judges and parole officials.

If they do their duty, they can end this crime. If they do not, the public wrath will wax very great.

To civilized men, nothing is more sacred than the safety of their wives and daughters. Where they are not safe, no community can pretend to have law and order.

In this State, rape is punishable by life imprisonment. Yet that penalty is rarely invoked. Adequate penalties should be applied.

Even in cases where life sentences are given, the prisoners may be paroled. Parole should be used only with the most careful discrimination. Granted that the perpetrators of this crime are usually psycopaths who in the eyes of the law may not be "responsible." Their violent tendency is apt to persist. They often repeat.

To stop the wave of crimes against women, swift, certain justice must be applied.

First of all, and always, justice. There must be no innocent scapegoats. There must be no judicial lynchings under the guise of law enforcement. Nobody must be punished but the guilty.

9-21-45

That the guilty should be punished the public has a right to demand.

Justice—prompt, certain and severe—will stop this wave of rapes.

The people will not forgive mayors, prosecutors, police chiefs, judges, and parole officers whose negligence or indifference makes women unsafe anywhere in the Chicago region.—Chicago Daily News.

# Naval Officer Admits Framing Festus Coleman

The Peoples Voice New York, New York 9-29-45

**Word came this week from a merchant seaman in Okinawa that he had recently talked to a white officer of the navy who admitted that he had framed Festus Coleman, California worker, now serving a 65-year-sentence in prison, on a charge of raping a white girl in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco about four years ago. According to the seaman, chief** steward on a merchant vessel, he ran across the naval officer, with whom he had a verbal clash, in a Far Eastern port.

The seaman signed his name to the letter and gave the name of the ship on which he works. His name is withheld for reasons of personal safety.

The officers asked him to take care of a group of men, the steward wrote in a letter to *PV*, dated September 8, and he replied that his orders must come from the master of his ship or the port steward. The naval officer became angry at this point, the steward wrote, and said: "That's what I say about these niggers. When one is not in the South, he ain't worth a damn."

According to the steward's story, the officer then turned to another naval officer and said: "If I had that kind of nigger in my home, I would do the same with him as I did to that nigger, Festus Coleman, in San Francisco."

When the second officer asked him what he had done to the man, the first officer replied:

9-29-45

"Well, I had a white girl in the park, you know, Golden Gate Park. The nigger Coleman, walking high, stepped right over us. We got up and damn near killed him. It made me so mad to think that a nigger would walk over white folks that I arrested the nigger and had him sent to prison. He is spending life in San Quentin now."

The steward's story corroborates the arguments of the Festus Coleman Defense Committee that Coleman was framed and is not guilty of the rape charge placed against him. The officer's name, according to the records of the defense committee, is Lieut. Griffith, and he is believed to be from Alabama.

The committee is still fighting for the release of Coleman, who has already spent several years of his sentence and who has denied all charges placed against him.

Interested persons may write to the New York Coleman Defense Committee at Box 380, General Post Office, New York 1. Shaemus O'Sheel is secretary-treasurer.

7283

# Waves Were Not Raped, Judge Holds

Washington Post D.C.

## 2 Bellhops Admitted To $750 Bail After Court Rules Against Testimony of Girls

11-3-45

Two Washington bellhops charged with raping three Waves were admitted to bail of $750 each yesterday by Judge Stedman Prescott in Circuit Court at Rockville, Md.

In fixing bail, Judge Prescott said that he did not believe a woman could be ravished in the manner in which the Waves had testified they were attacked.

The defendants, Robert Shackelford, 22, charged with rape of all three Waves, and Allen Hughlett, jr., 18, charged with attacking one of them left the courtroom with their counsel, Capt. James R. Miller, after bond had been posted by a professional bondsman.

Judge Prescott told the three Waves that a charge of rape in Maryland is a serious thing, for which the penalty is hanging, and that consequently the law requires that "a woman must fight to the last ditch" in protection of her honor in order to provide a case of rape.

The judge said he just did not believe that the circumstances described by the Waves, none of whom bit, scratched or kicked, was proof of actual rape.

"It's the first time in my 35 years' of legal experience that I have heard of a woman being raped twice without having her clothes torn," the judge said.

Turning to the defendants, he declared that the action of the latter did not warrant them to feel that they were free to "exercise their superior strength" in taking from women what they wanted. He said that it is very probable that the testimony, while it did not constitute rape, might prove assault of a serious nature which would be punishable by a strong sentence.

The judge said that one of the Waves apparently was sincere in her efforts to prevent what did transpire but that even she did not put up the resistance required by law.

The Waves denied on the stand that the reason they reported the alleged attacks was because they were late in reporting back to barracks. They also admitted that one of their number had brought the bottle of whisky from which several of the party were said to have drunk.

# Negro Farmer Lynched In S. C.

Jeffersonian

By HAROLD PREECE

ELLENTON, S. C. — South Carolina, home of Secretary of State Jimmie Byrnes who prattles about "democracy" in Bulgaria, has lynched an unoffending Negro farmer. This brings to two the number of known lynchings in Dixie during 1945.

11-10-45

Details of the South Carolina lynching including the first name of the victim and the name of the slayer and his possible accomplices are still incomplete. But this correspondent was able to learn that the murdered man was a Negro named Singleton who farmed in Barnwell County, 10 miles from this little town, and whose death in late September has not before been reported.

Houston Tex.

**No Cause To Shoot!**

According to the best information available, Singleton was driven from Ellenton, in adjoining Aiken County, by a still unnamed Aiken County policeman. When the two reached Singleton's farm, the Negro got out of the truck, stepped into the yard, and was then shot without any warning by the policeman. No words had passed between the two, so this correspondent was told, and the policemman had no cause to shoot the man.

No action has been taken by South Carolina officials to arrest and prosecute the murderer, but the South Carolina Organization of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People cooperating with NAACP national offices in New York is said to be investigating the case.

Previously, it had been thought that the mob slaying of Jesse James Payne, 30-year-old Madison, Florida, Negro, on October 18, had been the first lynching of 1945. The International Labor Defense in New York has offered a reward of $500 for apprehension of Payne's slayers, and Madison State Attorney A. L. Black has promised an investigation of the lynching.

# SOLDIER MEETS DEATH AT HANDS OF BRITISH MOB

The Plaindealer Kansas City, Kansas

11-2-45

London (NNPA)—Three villagers of Bretforton were acquitted early this month by a jury at the Worcester assizes after forty minutes' deliberation on a charge of manslaughter in connection with the death of Private Walter J. Shaw, a colored American soldier.

The defendants, Leslie and Dennis Tompkins and Royston Hay, were said to have led a posse of villagers who chased Shaw across the fields with pointed stakes, shovels and poles and beat him to death after he allegedly stabbed Prince Tompkins, a brother of two of the defendants, at the bar of a 400-year old inn in the remote, backwater village of Bretforton.

**First Case in History**

This was the first recorded instance of a lynching in England.

The trouble apparently was the consequence of race discrimination assertedly imported to Britain by white American soldiers. The altercation between Shaw and Prince Tompkins reportedly occurred after Shaw had been refused a drink at the bar of the inn.

Colored troops are quartered in a camp which the United States Army built within two miles of Bretforton. The villagers were said never to have seen a colored man until colored American troops were moved into the area.

The defendants in the case pleaded self-defense. Prosecutor Cartwright Sharp said "there was no doubt the Negro thoroughly deserved punishment but in this country we cannot permit private revenge, mob law or lynch law."

I veteran, was killed about Sept. 21 and found floating in the Suwanee river Oct. 29, Shannon said. A Suwanee county grand jury recently refused to indict three men accused of his lynching despite evidence presented by Gov. Millard F. Caldwell's own investigator and 20 witnesses. McFadden was the father of 8 small children and his widow is due soon for her 9th confinement, Shannon further reported.

The three who escaped prosecution were named as Tom Crews, Branford police chief; Lloyd Cribbs, turpentine operator; and Sgt. James B. Barber, Branford. While they were awaiting trial in the county jail, Shannon learned, the men were treated as honored guests, with crowds of white landowners and merchants going to their cells to "congratulate" and "comfort" them.

11-3-45

The writer said it was also a matter of common knowledge that another Negro had been shot here in September by constable "Sonny" Goff, but that he had not been able to learn the victim's name.

Still another Negro, also unidentified, mysteriously disappeared a few months ago, Shannon continued. He was allegedly a porter of the Suwanee hotel, where a white woman guest accused him of breaking into her room and demanding whiskey. Her husband promised her that she "wouldn't be bothered with him again", and the porter has not been seen since, Shannon reported.

Shannon said that state attorney A. K. Black told him, "I've always heard that Suwanee is the worst Klan county in Florida", while Jesse Blackmon, real estate man, said to him "with a chuckle", "If a nigger just wants to get shot, let him get out of line in

# Three more lynchings reported from Florida for this year

Los Angeles Tribune

LIVE OAKS, Fla.—Besides the shooting to death of Jesse James Payne in Oct., Florida's escutcheon may have already been blood-smeared with three more lynch-killings during 1945. Richard Shannon, of the Daily World, reported this week that he had uncovered three more very probable lynchings, which soon, on further investigation, may be set down on the record as dead certainties.

Sam McFadden, a World War

Suwanee county. Trouble is that niggers don't want to farm work any more. Why, we offered a nigger woman a dollar a day to wash for us and she wouldn't take it".

# 3 Lynchings in 3 Months

Atlanta Daily World

Baltimore, Md.

11-1-45

U. S. Attorney General Tom Clark is being asked to prosecute under Federal law, the persons responsible for three lynchings—two in Florida and one in South Carolina—which have taken place within the past three months.

The recent ruling of the U. S. Supreme Court in the case of Robert Hall, beaten to death by three white Georgia policemen, gives Federal jurisdiction to the Department of Justice in such cases.

The lynch-deaths of Jesse Payne, Sam McFadden and Moses Greene were all ignored by the grand juries before which they were brought. In the absence of State action it is clearly up to the Federal government to intervene.

Intimidation, persecution and mob violence are increasing in the South at such an alarming rate that any further hesitation is little short of criminal. Swift and decisive action is imperative.

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London

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# American Soldier Beaten to Death

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